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Issue No 111
Available from Wednesday,
October 28, 2009



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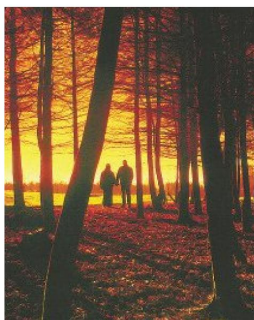


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For commuters, central London is about 35 miles away and from West Malling Station, journeys to London Victoria, Cannon Street and London Bridge all take around 50 minutes. The A26 and A228 are both nearby and junction 4 of the M20 is around two miles from Century Fields. For travel further afield, Stansted, Gatwick, London City and Heathrow are all less than 60 miles away.

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OF POPPIES AND PRIDE

Pupils presented a soldier with a poppy to show their support for the armed forces and to honour the fallen. Joshua and Shannon, from St Paul's Primary School, Rusthall, pinned the flower on Lieutenant Ollie Thomas at the launch of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal in Kent. Lt Thomas, from 36 Engineer Regiment, based at Invicta Barracks, Maidstone, joined other servicemen and women at County Hall to be presented with the first poppies of 2009.

Lt Thomas, 25, said: "The Poppy Appeal crosses the boundary of age by supporting and remembering those not just from today, but from the past as well. I urge people to wear a poppy to show support for those who undertook the difficult task of doing the right thing, often in arduous circumstances."

For more on the Poppy Appeal, see page seven.

EXCLUSIVE

BY ANNA WHITE

COUNCIL bosses have been urged to delay submitting plans for a controversial bypass in case it works in favour of a proposed giant industrial depot.

More than 100 residents packed Wrotham School last week to hear how the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) will fight plans for the 270-acre Kent Rail and Freight Terminal (KRAFT) which landowners want to build just off the M26 at Borough Green.

But there are fears that Kent County Council's plans for the bypass would make the KRAFT proposals more appealing.

KCC leader Paul Carter said he understood the residents' fears and promised to look "very closely" at the authority's proposal before taking it further, to ensure it would not help KRAFT.

In attempt to make KRAFT – dubbed BIG by Protect Kent, the county branch of the CPRE – more desirable, the scheme's backers have offered to contribute to the funding of the long-awaited Borough Green bypass.

Bosses behind the KRAFT scheme at Wrotham are competing directly with the Kent International Gateway freight depot at Bearsted, currently subject to a public inquiry, and will submit their plans next year.

Tonbridge and Malling MP Sir John Stanley expressed concern that the development could be approved if it was put before the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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Sex offences up, but area is safer overall, say police

BY ANNA WHITE

THE number of reported sexual offences in Mid Kent has risen during the past year, crime figures reveal.

Home Office statistics show police received 76 reports of serious sexual-related incidents between April and June this year – 11 more than the same three-month period last year.

Six more drug offences were reported and burglary increased by 40 compared to the 347 incidents reported last year.

Despite the rises, overall crime in the Mid Kent area, which includes Maidstone and Swale, dropped by nine per cent – a reduction of 512 crimes.

Supt Andy Rabey said: "I'm pleased that crime continues to fall in Mid Kent, and people living in the area should feel reassured that we are working harder than ever to reduce crime even further.

"I am particularly interested in crimes that affect people's quality of life and am glad to see that burglary to people's homes has fallen significantly yet again.

"On average, two burglaries a day are committed across the Mid Kent area, which is a seismic shift from a



NO COMPLACENCY: Kent Police are continuing to work to reduce crime even further

decade ago, when the numbers were often in double figures.

"Although sexual offences appear to have risen, this can be attributed predominantly to a large number of reported historic cases in the Swale area, for which we have sought subsequent convictions against the offenders. It also indicates that victims of sexual offences have increasing confidence in the police to come forward and report their aggressors.

"I'm keen to ensure we share all the Home Office figures, whether they show increases or reductions in crime,

and want to reassure people that we are not complacent about any crime."

In Mid Kent criminal damage fell by 22.9 per cent, car crimes incidents dropped by 86 and domestic burglary decreased by 15 offences.

Across Kent there was decreases in fraud and forgery by 23 per cent, criminal damage by 20 per cent and robbery and offences against vehicles both dropped by about 17 per cent.

Kent Police's Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge said: "Crime continues to drop across the county."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Turn out to support KIG campaigners

CAMPAIGN leaders are asking residents to turn out in force when they give evidence against the controversial Kent International Gateway.

STOPKIG will start presenting its case to the inquiry at Kent House, Maidstone on Friday, continuing on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Pre-registered residents will be able to have their say at The Ramada Hotel, in Hollingbourne, between 7pm and 10pm on Tuesday.

Help opticians raise cash for guide dogs

SHOPPERS can help raise money to train 25 guide dog puppies at a town centre opticians.

Specsavers, in the High Street, will be running fundraising games and activities until Saturday.

The store will welcome puppies from the Guide Dogs charity on Friday to launch the fundraising partnership and promote the importance of eye-care. Donations can also be made at the shop.

Friars invite you to music by candlelight

VOLUNTEERS at a religious priory have organised a night of classical entertainment.

The Social Group at The Friars, in Aylesford, hosted a visit of the relics of St Therese of Lisieux, which attracted more than 17,000 people.

Now they have organised Classics by Candlelight, featuring the string quartet Bow Belles, on Sunday, November 1. Tickets are £10, call 01622 717272.



For information and advice on travelling in Kent and for all our traffic regulation orders, please see the Kent on Saturday or the Kent on Sunday or visit our website at www.kent.gov.uk/highways



Internet paedophile jailed for 14 months

Man kept sick images on PC

■ BY ANNA WHITE

A PAEDOPHILE who collected sickening images and films of children has been sentenced to 14 months in prison.

James Mullen, 23, was sentenced on Monday at Maidstone Crown Court after pleading guilty to 17 offences of distributing and possession indecent images of children and one charge of obscene communication.

Sadism

Mullen, who claims his appalling hobby was an obsession, was caught after Kent Police received a tip-off from America that he was using a computer for internet chat, to download the sick images and distribute them to others.

The computer was seized from his home in Maidstone and the digital forensic team discovered 379 indecent images of children – 11 were rated at level five, classed as the most serious depicting sadism of bestiality with children.



HOBBY: James Mullen used a computer for internet chat and to download and distribute images of children

Mullen denied having a sexual interest in children but said he had downloaded the images to “flush out” paedophiles and claimed he had reported them to an internet service provider – although police say such a report was never found.

The convicted paedophile was also charged with sending obscene photos and text messages to a woman he had never met through a television dating site.

In the messages Mullen expressed his sexual fantasies which included a description of abuse against a ‘fantasy niece’.

Mullen also left voice messages during which he pretended to abuse a child.

The woman found the messages so disturbing that she reported him to the police, leading to his arrest on November 24, 2008 and then again on May 28 this year at his home in Brabourne Way.

He pleaded guilty to the charges and said he knew his behaviour was wrong.

Upon sentencing Judge Philip Statman said: “You were the adult, you had the ability to choose to press the button on your computer to download and distribute these images.”

Disturbing

Senior Investigating officer Detective Sgt Dave Shipley, from Kent Police’s public protection crime unit, said: “Mullen compiled a sickening collection of indecent images and movies of children.

“He then made and sent a number of extremely distressing and disturbing messages to a woman whom he had never met, detailing the abuse of a young child.

“People who collect and distribute child abuse images add to the demand for new images to be created and therefore more children become victims. The public protection crime unit at Kent Police has removed another serious offender from the community and put him before the courts.”



FAMILY FUN: Freak Week will be followed by a Fireworks Spectacular at the Hop Farm Family Park

Enjoy a great fright out at the Hop Farm

YOUNGSTERS can enjoy a range of spooky-themed fun this Halloween with plenty of activities for all ages at one of the county’s top family attractions.

The Hop Farm Family Park, in Paddock Wood, has arranged a packed schedule of events during the day for toddlers and an evening timetable of terrifying fun for the older children.

The Happy Halloween Half-Term with Igor, the evil hunchbacked scientist’s assistant, will provide daily entertainment for all of the kids with party dances, games and storytelling.

As the sun goes down the Hop Farm will change into Freak Week which is full of creepy entertainment and spooky shows to entertain and terrify young visitors.

The week will come to an end on Friday with the grand-opening of the new Treejumpers Xtreme Zone, which includes zip wires, climbing walls, an aerial trek, bush craft and archery – and for the opening day only it is all free of charge.

The whole family can enjoy the Hop Farm’s Firework Spectacular on Saturday and Sunday – subject to the weather.

For more information visit www.the-hopfarm.co.uk.

County Hall chief vows to fight scheme

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Independent Planning Commission (IPC).

Sir John echoed the views made in the first part of the meeting – led by Arundel and South Downs Tory MP Nick Herbert, the shadow secretary of state for environment, food and rural affairs – by urging the Government to scrap the IPC and allow county councils to oversee planning applications.

Mr Herbert was asked by the CPRE and Protect Kent to explain his party’s plans to protect the countryside from developments such as KIG and KRAFT.

He said the Tories would encourage more use of the land and would look into housing numbers for the south east, which he said were “unsustainable”.

Richard Knox-Johnston, chairman of Protect Kent, said: “I’m pleased there was a general view that the BIG scheme was not acceptable in the Green Belt and in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

“I’m also pleased the speakers condemned the IPC, which greatly reduces the opportunity for local people to have a say in applications such as BIG.”

Call for review of bail hostel after inmates carry out sex attacks

IT HAS emerged three other men carried out sexual attacks while staying in a town centre probation hostel.

Yourmaidstone exclusively revealed last week that James Donoghue, 42, was staying in Fleming House when he broke into a woman’s home and repeatedly raped and sexually abused her.

Since our report it has come to light that during the past three years three other attacks have been carried out by residents of the bail house.

Review

Although Donoghue had no previous history of sexual assault, his recent conviction has caused Maidstone and Weald MP Ann Widdecombe to call for a review into how sex offenders are monitored when they are released from prison.

Kent Probation Service chief officer, Sarah Billiard, defended the hostel’s procedures on BBC Radio Kent’s breakfast show on Monday

and denied it had failed to keep the public safe.

“It’s not about a question of failing. What we do is put in a number of measures to manage and mitigate the risk of the public and what we found is the approved premises are that most intensive controlled option at our disposal,” she said.

“Our first priority is to protect the public and approved premises are the safest way of managing offenders in the community.”

Ms Billiard also denied that because Maidstone Prison has become a specialist sex offender unit that more of those prisoners will be released into Maidstone or Kent.

She said that the convicts will return to their original prison after undergoing treatment at the prison in County Road.

But, the probation officer agrees with Ms Widdecombe that the amount of sex offenders released into Maidstone as a result of the expansion at the prison should be monitored.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Charity needs Santas to run for children at Leeds

SANTAS across Maidstone are being called upon to help raise vital funds for charity by taking part in a fun run at Leeds Castle.

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust is looking for 500 runners to help raise funds for research into a new drug to treat children with the illness.

The event is on Sunday, November 29 and is open to all ages. Every entrant will be rewarded with a Santa suit and a medal.

For information visit www.cftrust.org.uk/help/events/santaleeds.

Teen robbed of £100 in broad-daylight snatch

A TEENAGE boy was pickpocketed as he walked through Maidstone town centre.

As the 17-year-old boy made his way along High Street towards Barclays Bank, between 10.10am and 10.52am on Monday, October 12, he was stopped by a man who is believed to have taken £100 from him.

The offender, who was black and in his early 20s, walked towards the Mall Chequers. He had stubble and was wearing a black beany hat and black jacket.

Police to sing Christmas carols for Air Ambulance

MEMBERS of the police choir are already warming up their vocal chords in preparation for their charity Christmas concert.

The Kent Police Male Voice Choir HQ will be singing festive carols at Kent Music School, in Astley House, Hastings Road, on December 19. They will be performing in aid of the Kent Air Ambulance Trust.

Tickets are £7. To book or for more information call Chris Longfield on 01303 875121 or email secretary@kpmvc.org.uk

Youth theatre cooking up a top performance

A GROUP of young actors are getting ready to burst onto the stage and perform their annual musical in front of a packed audience.

The Hazlitt Youth Theatre will be performing their production *The Baker's Wife* every day this week until Saturday.

The group will appear at The Hazlitt, in Earl Street, tonight, Thursday and Friday at 7.45pm and at 7pm on Saturday.

Book tickets at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk or call 01622 758611.

Fun art event aims to draw a big crowd

BUDDING artists are being urged to get down to the town centre today and create a giant collage to go on display in an exhibition.

Throughout this week Maidstone Museum is hosting a number of creative workshops, exhibitions and activity days to keep youngsters entertained during the half-term, including the week's flagship event – The Big Draw.

And Yourmaidstone is proud to be exclusively supporting the annual week of family-fun.

The Big Draw, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary as a national event, gives artists of all ages the opportunity to create a giant collage of animals and plants, made from folded and torn bits of paper.

The finished piece will go on display in the museum's Cut it Out exhibition until February of next year.

The show will also feature a number of artists whose work is inspired by folding, tearing and cutting paper.

Some of the exhibition's artists will be on hand to help during The Big Draw sessions, which will

■ BY ANNA WHITE

run at the St Faith's Street museum from 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

Cabinet member for leisure and culture Brian Moss said: "This is a really exciting project – it's going to be big and what's more it's free to take part. It also coincides with the half-term so we hope a lot of people will come along."

"We're after people of any age to put their mark of this piece of artwork, and from November 7 they will be able to see it displayed in the museum when the Cut it Out exhibition opens."

Already this week youngsters have enjoyed getting creative by making bird kites and enjoyed a fun storytelling day.

To carry on the artistic theme from today's Big Draw event, tomorrow the museum will be offering under 12s the chance to take part in stand up art, between 10.30am and 12.30pm or 1.30pm and 3.30pm.

To round-off the week events, on Friday there will be a chance for the children to make



PRETTY AS A PICTURE: Youngsters get creative in art workshops as part of the annual Big Draw event

a dancing dragonfly that balances on the tip of a flow, which is inspired by the museum's natural history collections.

Times for the dragonfly making session are 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30 to 3.30pm.

If the daily workshops aren't enough, keep the younger kids entertained in the museum recently opened Clue Corner safari in the River Safari gallery and take the older children to see the ancient Japanese collections.

The Big Draw event is free but the other activities cost £2 per child. For details visit www.museum.maidstone.gov.uk.



PIECE OF CAKE: Visitors easily raised a record sum at Highgrove Garden Centre

Coffee morning's record result

A GARDEN centre has broken its previous records by raising more than £2,000 at its annual charity coffee morning.

Highgrove Garden Centre's cafe joined in Macmillan Cancer Support's flagship event, the World's Biggest Coffee Morning, last month.

The staff and Macmillan team recently finished counting what the cafe had collected and discovered they had raised a record £2,700 – £500 more than last year.

In the past five years Highgrove has donated more than £10,900 to Macmillan and hundreds of customers have continued to attend the centre's annual coffee morning every year since it opened in February 2005.

The garden centre's Trevor Jenkins said: "We are thrilled that this year's event has raised a record total for Macmillan which will help people affected by cancer."

"Our customers, suppliers and staff really get behind the coffee morning."

Laura Thornton, fundraising manager at Macmillan, said: "Highgrove's superb donation will help fund nearly three weeks of support from one of our nurses. We rely on support for 99 per cent of our income so thank you to everyone involved at this successful event."

More than 1,100 coffee mornings took place across Kent this year and Macmillan is hoping to have broken the £20,000 fundraising mark.



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IN THE PINK: Staff at the Maidstone branch of SBC do their bit to raise funds for those affected by cancer

Painting the town pink for breast cancer

CHARITABLE workers and pupils went pink last week to help raise awareness and vital funds for breast cancer.

Staff at the Maidstone HSBC branch and Banks Wine Bar were joined by students and teachers from Invicta Grammar School in wearing pink clothes and accessories for a day in aid of breast cancer.

Together, with some help from staff at Leeds Castle, they have raised more than £1,430 to date for various breast cancer charities, including Breakthrough Breast Cancer and Breast Cancer Awareness.

The county town's Pink Day was held to tie-in with other events being held national-

■ BY ANNA WHITE

ly during October – which has now been dubbed Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Invicta Grammar School student Daniel Blackwell's mother was diagnosed with cancer, but said having undergone treatment she is now "fighting fit".

The 17-year-old said: "Everyone knows someone who has been affected by some form of cancer, whether it is a friend or family member, it means a lot to so many people and this is a great way to raise money."

Daniel's classmate Charlotte Friend, 17, was also keen to raise awareness of the need for cancer research.

The deputy head girl, whose dad has been diagnosed with incurable cancer, said: "It's very important to raise awareness of the illness and for our younger students especially, as when they get older they may well have their own experiences of it, or be related to something to do with breast cancer so it is important that they are aware of the issues."

Julia Smith, community support officer for the south east region of HSBC Banks, helped organise the event in all of the area's 111 branches and the cause was especially important as two of their colleagues had been diagnosed with the disease and were receiving treatment.

Mrs Smith said: "I am so pleased with everyone's efforts. The amount of money the people of Maidstone raised is just fantastic and is going to such a good cause."

Vicky Andrew, who is the West Kent area representative for Breakthrough Breast Cancer, said: "Events like these are absolutely brilliant, not only in terms of the money raised, but also for getting the message across about the work we do."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Police secure car plates

MORE than 200 drivers had their number plates secured by police last week to avoid car cloning for criminal use.

The Safe Plates day was held at Sainsbury's supermarket, in Maidstone town centre, by Maidstone police on Tuesday, October 20.

During the day officers fitted hundreds of number plates with the anti-tamper one-way screws, which once fitted cannot be easily removed. The screws are then covered with a security cap as an added deterrent.

Police are tackling the nationwide problem of criminals stealing plates from cars to clone other vehicles and as a result the innocent motorists can be sent speeding fines, congestion charges and other offences.

Traffic co-ordinator PC Warren Jarvis said: "Having these screws fitted is a simple measure to reduce the risk."

Vehicle-owners can obtain screws from Maidstone police by calling 01622 690055.

Council recession scheme

MAIDSTONE Council's leader is backing a new campaign that aims to help people in the county get through the credit crunch.

Councillor Chris Garland has pledged his support to The Backing Kent People campaign, run by KCC and the Citizen's Advice Bureau, to offer support, help and tips during tough times.

The Money Box magazine, which accompanies the initiative, is now available at Maidstone Gateway, in King Street, and Cllr Garland is encouraging struggling residents to visit their council Gateway for guidance.

For more information visit www.kent.gov.uk/people.

Show will be dead good

THE Hazlitt Theatre is hosting a murder mystery night on Saturday that promises to be a terrifying evening.

Tickets are £15 and include a complimentary Bloody Mary cocktail.

The show is being held in the Exchange Studio and starts at 10pm. There will be a break at 11.15pm before the murderer is revealed on the last stroke of midnight.

To book call 01622 758611 or visit www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

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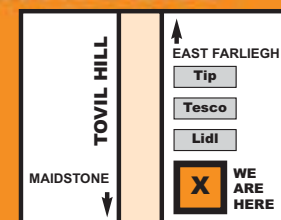
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PINK: Julie Maddocks visited Maidstone to see how staff and pupils were getting involved in Breast Cancer Awareness month

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The modern relevance of poppy appeals



■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

WITH the continued deaths of British servicemen in Afghanistan, this year's poppy appeal for fallen fighters is ever more poignant.

The appeal was launched on Thursday by the Royal British Legion with the slogan "For their sake, wear a poppy".

Since 2001, more than 220 members of the Armed Forces – including soldiers from Kent – have been killed in Afghanistan, and more than 300 troops have been wounded in Helmand Province alone.

In decades past, we wore poppies to remember those who fell in two world wars and other conflicts.

Tragedies

But the tragedies suffered by the families of those men and women is now being shared in these new modern day battles.

Along with the dead, thousands more have been hurt in Iraq, many with brutal injuries.

During the launch ceremony, hosted by the chairman of Kent County Council, John Davies, representatives from active serving units across the county, many of whom have served in Afghanistan and Iraq, were formally presented the first poppies of the 2009 Appeal.

This was done by school children from St Paul's and Benenden Primary Schools who handed each veteran a poppy.

Those that have fallen in Kent in recent years include Flight Sgt Gary Andrews, 48, from Tankerton, who was with 120 Squadron RAF; Sgt Dave Wilkinson, 33, from Ashford, with 19 Regiment Royal Artillery; Major Alexis Roberts, 32, with 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles; Lance Corporal Jake Alderton, 22, from Bexley, with 36 Engineer Regiment; Lance Corporal James Johnson, 31, from Chatham, with 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, and Captain Ben Babington-Browne, 27, from Maidstone, who



REMEMBER: Poppy appeal has been launched by the Royal British Legion with slogan "For their sake, wear a poppy"

was with 22 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers.

Royal British Legion county manager, Geoff Simpson, said: "The two weeks of Remembrancetide provide a time when we can honour the memory of those who have died."

"However, in remembering the dead, we must not forget the living, particularly those who have had their lives shattered by dreadful wounding, or the loss of a loved one."

"The funds raised through our annual poppy appeal help provide emotional and financial support for servicemen and their families, who are trying to rebuild their lives."

"The people of Kent generously donated just over £1 million during last year's poppy appeal."

"However, we see daily increases in the number of people turning to us for help."

"The support we have given this year has been extensive – from funding a laptop that

allowed a young ex-soldier suffering from post traumatic stress disorder to order his shopping online and keep in contact with his family, to helping an estranged wife and her three children move out of a women's refuge and into a rented home of their own. For their sake, wear a poppy."

Because of the ever-growing number of casualties, the Legion said the focus of this year's appeal is to help what it called "the Afghan generation" of the Armed Forces and their families.

Since 2003, the Legion has financially assisted 10,000 Middle East veterans, and helped win £7.5m additional compensation paid to the most seriously injured heroes.

It has also provided £1.8m for combat stress to provide treatment for mental traumas, provided housing and employment, and even adventure breaks and family holidays to hundreds of veterans, all of whom saw action in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Fatal crash outside of village church

A WOMAN has died following a car crash outside a village church.

The accident, which involved a silver Peugeot and a Mondeo, happened at about 9.30am on Thursday on the A26 Tonbridge Road at Watlington, near Maidstone.

It is thought the 48-year-old, from Gravesend, was trapped inside her vehicle following the crash, which was attended by staff from all three emergency services.

Pedigree puppies stolen during raid

THIEVES made off with nine cocker spaniels after breaking into kennels on a village industrial estate.

Four black-and-white puppies and five adults were stolen during the raid in Iwade, near Sittingbourne, which took place between October 14-15.

The estimated value of the dogs – none of which were micro-chipped – is about £4,000.

Lifeboat rescued skilled Dutch sailor

A DUTCH sailor rescued after his boat suffered engine failure said he was sad to have called for help after 40 years' experience of sailing.

The owner said he was pleased to see the Dover lifeboat come to the aid of his small angling boat, which had been drifting in the north-east shipping lane on passage to The Netherlands.

Deputy Second Coxswain Mark Finnis led the RNLI lifeboat out of Dover just after 1pm on Monday, October 19, to the disabled vessel, which was 11 miles out of port.

The stricken seven-metre water-jet angling boat, together with its single occupant, was then towed to Dover Marina.

Mr Finnis said: "Conditions in the Channel were moderate and the boat was drifting in the nautical equivalent of the M25."

"Everything went well and the gentleman was last seen boarding a ferry to go home, leaving his new boat in Dover."

Large driving fine

A POLISH motorist has been handed Kent's largest ever fine of £7,500 for twice being caught driving a dangerously overweight lorry on the M20.

Janaszcz appeared before Sevenoaks magistrates this morning, when he was also ordered to pay £85 court costs and a £15 victim surcharge on top of the mammoth fine.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

BRUCE POLLINGTON



Q Can you tell us a little about yourself?

A I joined the team at The Heart of Kent Hospice in 2004 having previously worked in Maidstone as a GP for seven years.

Q What does your job entail?

A I have an overall responsibility for the clinical care provided by the hospice.

Along with my medical colleagues, we provide a broad range of medical support to our patients not just in the hospice but also in the community where we want to expand our specialist palliative care.

While much of our work is with those suffering from cancer we recognise the need to help all those suffering from other terminal illnesses in the community.

The focus of our work is to relieve symptoms; this includes physical aspects such as pain control but also the psychological, social and spiritual aspects of our patients and their family's needs.

In addition, I play a significant role in advising and championing the development of coordinated End of Life Care and have taken a leading role in establishing the Kent and Medway End of Life Care Partnership.

This aims to develop a holistic patient and family experience by promoting effective joint working across health and social care services.

Q Can you describe the Day Therapy services and Inpatient care the Hospice provides?

A Our Inpatient Unit consists of eight single en-suite bedrooms and a four bedded bay. Referrals to the In-Patient Unit are for symptom management and care in the terminal stage of illness.

There is no set length of time for an admission with length of stay being dependent upon meeting the assessed needs on an individual basis.

The Day Therapy has up to 15 places each day with access to physiotherapy, occupational therapies, counselling, spiritual care and social work input and a range of complementary therapies.

Q What are the best bits of the job?

A Obviously the work can be challenging, but equally is often hugely rewarding. Much of this comes from working with like-minded and skilled colleagues who are able to work flexibly in providing comfort and support and meeting the needs of patients and their families.

Q What are the worst aspects of your role?

A Probably the most frustrating aspect of my role is the slow pace of change in bringing together a joined-up service for our community. A seamless End of Life Care pathway needs good co-ordination across primary care with

GP's and district nurses, the hospitals, out of hour's services, the ambulance service, social services and the voluntary sector. This is a challenge as there are limited mechanisms currently in place to pass information between all the services involved.

Q What do you like to do in your spare time?

A In my spare time I enjoy seaside walks with the kids and making music or making a noise depending upon your perspective.

Q Anything you'd like to add?

A When facing a terminal illness, many families find that hospice care is a peaceful, reassuring, and supportive form of healthcare. The focus is always on controlling pain, managing symptoms and providing comfort, dignity, and the best quality of life for patients, their families and their carers.

The hospice provides physical, psychological, social and spiritual support to patients and their families when a terminal illness no longer responds to medications or treatments. Hospice care neither prolongs life, nor hastens death, but strives to control symptoms and pain.

Q & A

The Heart of Kent Hospice director Dr Bruce Pollington spoke to **Anna White** about his job and the work the hospice carries out to offer support and advice to sufferers and their families at a difficult time

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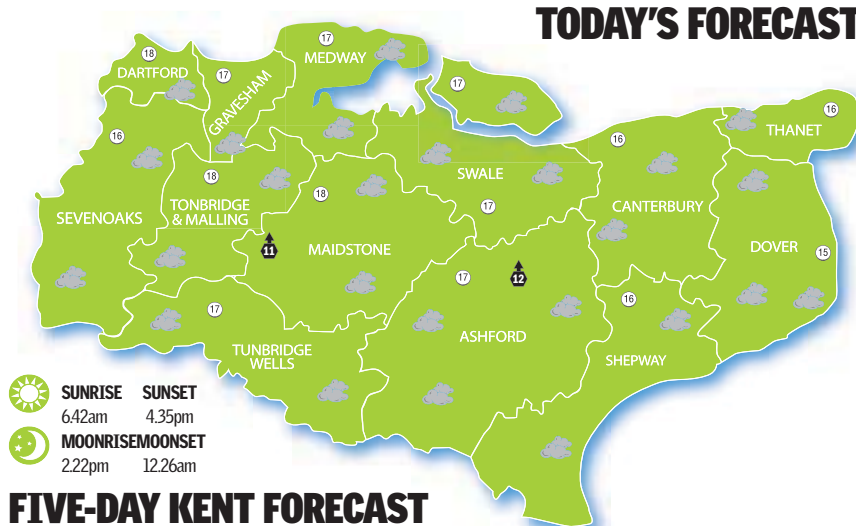
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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	10:40am	5.5m
	Sunday	11:23am	5.7m
Dover	Saturday	9:04am	6.1m
	Sunday	9:37am	6.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	9:06am	6.9m
	Sunday	9:46am	7.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	9:34am	4.6m
	Sunday	10:07am	4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	10:29am	5.3m
	Sunday	11:12am	5.5m
Whitstable	Saturday	10:28am	4.9m
	Sunday	11:08am	5.0m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	14°C	Madrid	23°C
Athens	22°C	New York	15°C
Barcelona	21°C	Paris	17°C
Beijing	19°C	Rome	20°C
Bombay	34°C	Sydney	17°C
Cape Town	25°C	Tenerife	25°C
Cardiff	15°C	Tokyo	15°C
Gibraltar	21°C	Vancouver	8°C
Hong Kong	29°C	Warsaw	10°C
Las Palmas	25°C	Wellington	16°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	17°C	18°C	17°C	17°C	17°C	Gravesend	17°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	18°C
Canterbury	15°C	16°C	16°C	16°C	16°C	Maidstone	17°C	18°C	17°C	17°C	18°C
Chatham	16°C	17°C	16°C	17°C	17°C	Ramsgate	15°C	16°C	16°C	16°C	16°C
Dartford	17°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	Rochester	16°C	17°C	16°C	17°C	17°C
Dover	15°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	Sevenoaks	15°C	16°C	15°C	16°C	16°C
Faversham	16°C	17°C	16°C	17°C	17°C	Sittingbourne	16°C	17°C	16°C	17°C	17°C
Folkestone	15°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	Tonbridge	16°C	17°C	17°C	17°C	17°C
Gillingham	16°C	17°C	16°C	17°C	17°C	Tun Wells	16°C	17°C	17°C	17°C	17°C

yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Cleaner who preyed on 88-year-old woman jailed

A WINDOW cleaner has been sentenced to three years in prison for purposely befriending elderly people to steal money from them.

Valerie Newing was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court after she pleaded guilty to preying on vulnerable victims, burglary and attempted burglary.

The court heard how the 47-year-old, previously of Bell Road in Park Wood, befriended elderly people and would regularly visit them at home and then distract them while she stole money from their purses.

The cleaner once targeted an 88-year-old woman and became so desperate that she attempted to force her way into the woman's home using hedge-loppers to break the chain on the front door.

She was eventually caught trying to force her way into the elderly woman's house through a back window. Police traced her through DNA left on the window.

Newing, who was sentenced on Friday, October 16, also asked for a further two crimes to be taken into consideration.



SENTENCED: Valerie Newing



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ASK THE CHIEF



Chief Constable Michael Fuller answers readers' questions as part of our A Safer Kent Campaign. See all of your questions and answers at www.kentnews.co.uk

QUESTION: What do you think about the zero-tolerance policy adopted in New York?

Patricia Burton, Folkestone

ANSWER: The concept of zero-tolerance policing was made famous in the mid-90s by New York mayor Rudy Giuliani and works on the assumption that by quickly and firmly addressing minor problems within a locality, a strong message is sent out that more serious crime will not be tolerated.

However, this approach has attracted criticism for removing officer discretion and unnecessarily criminalising large numbers of local people, and there is still much debate among criminologists as to its effectiveness at actually reducing levels of crime.

Kent Police are committed to dealing with low-level crime and antisocial behaviour, and we target this through our local neighbourhood policing teams and the recently-introduced neighbourhood task teams. I strongly believe we need to achieve this in partnership with local communities and that my officers need to retain the ability to exercise discretion and use their own common sense – something the public would quite rightly expect.

QUESTION: Can you explain why for many years your officers have allowed hundreds of speeding motorcyclists to use the roads in and out of Tenterden every summer weekend as a virtual TT course?

Not only are they a menace to themselves, but to pedestrians and all other road-users as well. I have complained to the previous holder of your position, but nothing was ever done and I certainly have never seen a speed trap on our local roads.

Steps should, in my view, be taken now to prepare a rude awakening for these lawless idiots in time for next summer.

Peter Lake, Tenterden

ANSWER: Kent Police take the issue of speeding motorcyclists very seriously. In the Ashford district, which includes Tenterden, this important issue is treated as a priority in a number of wards following feedback from the PACT (Partners and Communities Together) processes in both rural and urban areas.

The subject of speeding motorcyclists forms part of our daily business and is incorporated into our 'You said, we did' information campaigns. Since the beginning of last month, 26 rural-road checks have been completed in the Tenterden area, resulting in 46 drivers being dealt with for a variety of offences.

In addition, a specialist motorbike team patrols areas where problems are identified and provides advice to riders. Its role specifically focuses on reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads, but also addresses antisocial behaviour by riders.

QUESTION: We are continually being told the crime rate is falling, but is that because the public feels reporting offences is pointless as the police appear disinterested?

Patricia Burton, Folkestone

ANSWER: Kent Police set priorities to tackle antisocial behaviour and crime. We achieve this by ensuring our emergency response patrols react to calls for assistance that need immediate attendance. Kent Police's Initial Crime Investigation Unit deals with all reports of crime that do not require the immediate attendance of a patrol. The unit consists of 60 investigators providing a round-the-clock service. The staff have specialised training to enable them to provide a quality investigation at the first point of contact with the caller, ensuring each caller receives the best possible service. At local level we have seen a marked increase in the number of crimes attended by police.

Antisocial behaviour and crime put in the spotlight

A THREE-WEEK crack-down on crime and antisocial behaviour was launched by Kent Police this week, *writes Jane Barlow*.

It will run until November 8 and will give the message that illegal and nuisance behaviour will not be tolerated while at the same time reassuring people the police and many other organisations are working together to make their communities safer.

During the three weeks, Kent Police will be working with local councils, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Neighbourhood Watch, Clean Kent, the Probation Service, the Kent and Medway Camera Safety Partnership, Kent County Council and the Medway Unitary Authority.

The campaign will focus on three themes:

- Crime and disorder – this will include action to reduce incidents of antisocial behaviour associated with Halloween and fireworks
- Antisocial use of vehicles – this will include specialist patrols targeting those motorists who put lives at risk by speeding, using mobile phones while driving, not wearing seatbelts, or by driving uninsured, unroad-worthy, untaxed vehicles. Patrols will also target nuisance off-road motorcycling
- Environmental antisocial behaviour – activities will aim to improve the environment through the removal of graffiti, rubbish and abandoned and untaxed vehicles and the identification of individuals or companies responsible for flytipping.

Inspector Phil Hibben, who is co-ordinating police efforts across the county, said: "Antisocial behaviour and crime can have a significant impact on people's quality of life."

"During these three weeks the police will be working closely with local councils and other



COORDINATOR: Inspector Phil Hibben

agencies to tackle the issues that matter most to local people and bring offenders to justice.

"The darker evenings and a seasonal rise in casualties on the roads will mean we will also be targeting drivers who pose the greatest risk to other road-users."

"Specialist officers will be identifying and prosecuting drivers who drive in an antisocial manner."

Part of the campaign, called Operation Velo, will see police officers going out on their bikes rather than in patrol cars to speak with members of the public.

When Operation Velo ran at the end of August it resulted in 900 engagements with youngsters, who were given road safety advice.

The campaign will also include Operation Cubit, which is coordinated by KCC and removes untaxed and abandoned vehicles from the roads. The campaign also takes in Not In My Neighbourhood Week, which runs nationally from November 2-6.

During the three weeks, action planned across the county includes:

- In Maidstone PCSOs will be visiting shops selling fireworks to remind retailers about the law.
- Dover officers will be tackling inconsiderate parking outside schools.
- In Gravesend and Dartford, meetings will be held with retailers, at which Trading Standards and Kent Police will give advice.
- Ashford police officers will be going into secondary schools to speak about the dangers of playing with fireworks and about road safety. PCSOs will be recording number-plates of drivers not wearing seatbelts or using mobile phones at the wheel.

Officers from Ashford are expecting to be particularly busy on October 31 as the village of Pluckley is reportedly the country's most haunted place and there could be an influx of visitors.



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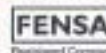
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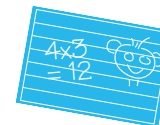
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BREAK TIME

Shop co-operates with school funds

A GROUP of school children had the honour of cutting the ribbon of a new supermarket in Bearsted following its multi-million-pound makeover.

Youngsters from Madginford Park Infant and Junior school officially opened the new Co-operative store, which was formerly a Somerfield shop, in Egremont Road, on Thursday.

For taking part in the opening the school children were presented with £100 for each school fund by store manager Andy Miller.

He said: "The Co-operative is very much a community retailer so it is appropriate that our local schools are involved in our special event. We are delighted pupils are playing a central role in the re-launch of our store."

"We are proud to serve the local community and this substantial investment in the store means we can now provide a much enhanced service."

"I am sure customers will welcome the changes and the benefits shopping at The Co-operative brings, including our ethical trading policies which underpin our product ranges, thousands of price reductions on key lines across the store and our cash-back dividend scheme."

"We will meet all the community's daily food shopping needs and, in the best traditions of The Co-operative, make our contribution to community life."

The refurbishment of the store, which is located in a parade of shops next to the school, is part of The Co-operative Group's £1.56 billion takeover of the Somerfield supermarket chain.

Last year the company paid out more than £1million to community groups.



ON THE JOB: Back row from left: Enrichment coordinator Michelle Bigg, Further Education Sports Coordinator Marianne Rodger, Students' Union president Candy Worf, Enrichment coordinator Trevor Fox. Front row from left: Social zone manager Viv Bennett, assistant FESCO Dawn Kitto-Jones, social zone manager Lynne Ansell

Campus activities will remain 'outstanding' with new team

A TEAM of energetic staff have been hired to ensure the extracurricular activities at a Kent college remain at an "outstanding" level.

Education watchdog Ofsted marked the quality of enrichment activities at MidKent College's Maidstone and Medway campus as outstanding when it inspected the sites in March.

Now the college's senior leaders want to make sure it stays that way by recruiting a new team to run the events and clubs more frequently and make it more accessible and diverse for all of the students.

■ BY ANNA WHITE

Enrichment coordinator at the Oakwood Park campus, in Maidstone, Trevor Fox, said: "It's important that we all ensure all students can benefit from it, regardless of their main programme of study."

"This academic year we will be offering a wide selection of activities for students to get involved in, from art exhibitions and workshops to film festivals and fashion shows."

The new extracurricular programme will unite various departments to ensure maximum student involvement.

The new team will bring together the

Students' Union with college personal tutors and coordinators to make activities as entertaining as possible.

Events and clubs coming up, include a new student book club, a Japanese festival, a gospel choir, rock climbing and a circus skills day.

Students' Union president Candy Worf, from Wainscott in Rochester, said: "It's as much about personal development as having fun."

"With rates of unemployment now on the increase amongst 16 to 24-year-olds, we want to offer students the chance to increase their confidence, develop their team work skills and gain a range of valuable experiences they can add to their CVs."

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yourmaidstoneblogger

Simon Robinson explains why readers should oppose Boris Johnson's floating airport scheme off Kent's coast



So many reasons we can't allow Boris's plans to take off

BORIS Johnson's barmy Thames Estuary airport plan must never touch down.

The hare-brained £40 billion proposal has numerous fatal flaws, most of which are so blatantly, smack-in-the-face obvious a child could point them out.

The floating airport proposal has been criticised for being too expensive, impractical, environmentally and ecologically unsound, unfeasible, unwanted and a host of other bad words.

Furthermore, it fails miserably against any set of criterion you may wish to stack it up against. Let's just consider one or two of the main drawbacks to plopping a huge six runway airport off the Kent coast.

First things first, there's the astronomical cost. With the £40 billion sum – that's £40,000 million or £40,000,000,000 – we could build the equivalent of ten London Heathrow Terminal 5's or buy Cristiano Ronaldo, the world's most expensive player, 500 times over.

Quite what we'd do with 500 Portuguese step-over merchants is another matter but that's beside the point.

Then there are the logistical issues.

The Mayor of London wants to build an airport in the middle of the Estuary, a few miles away from land. The airport would be served by two terminals, one in Kent, and one in Essex.

How would thousands of passengers get to and from these terminals each day?

They couldn't get there by car. Anyone who's tried to drive through Medway, Maidstone, Ashford, Canterbury, Dover or anywhere else around the county can vouch for the fact that the road network is on its knees.

Adding a few thousand extra cars to our roads is not only impractical, it's downright dangerous. And they won't get there by train either. Again, anyone who's been faced with a peak-time journey on Southeastern trains knows the carriages are already full to bursting and the customer satisfaction levels are somewhat short of 'acceptable', let alone 'good' or 'we need more passengers on board'.

Then you've got the ecological impact of building a six runway airport off Kent's wildlife-rich coast. This serene stretch is currently home to a whole host of migrating and breeding birds, many of which are rare or protected.

For all these reasons, and many, many more, Medway Council, Kent County Council and the RSPB have joined forces to oppose the plans. The partners have set up a website – www.stopestuaryairport.com – which Yourmedway supports. There are whispers around Whitehall that the mayor's estuary airport plans are simply political grandstanding of the highest order, diverting attention away from further developing London's airports ahead of next year's London elections.

But let's not take the risk. It's up to us to send a clear message to Boris that Kent does not want his airport.

We need names on the anti-airport petition to force the mayor to scrap his plane-stupid plans. Go build your airport somewhere where the transport network can cope and the environmental impact will be less devastating.

GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk



TEXT: **MAID** then your message to: 818000 (please remember to include your name)

LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Gary Wright**, on 01303 817032 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourmaidstone, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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Some of the recipients of grants and awards (from top left)

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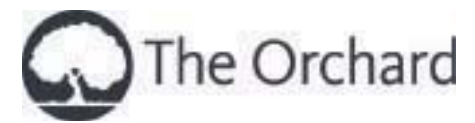
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WIN tickets to the best Christmas party in town!

THE Orchard in Dartford is proud to be hosting the premiere of the fabulous Blues Brothers Xmas Party from November 4-7, before the show embarks on its new UK tour. And to celebrate Jake and Elwood coming to town we have SEVEN pairs of tickets up for grabs for you to enjoy this feel-good musical!

Storming its way through hits including Soul Man, Everybody Needs Somebody To Love, Mustang Sally, Jailhouse Rock and a special Christmas Medley, The Blues Brothers Xmas Party has more baubles than you can shake your tail-feather at!

Simply answer the following question and email your answer, name, address and telephone number to marketing@orchardtheatre.co.uk by Sunday, November 1. Winners will be notified on Monday, November 2 and winning tickets will be for the performance on Wednesday, November 4 at 7.30pm. Alternatively you can post your entry on a postcard to Orchard Theatre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1ED.

Question: Which soul legend played the part of Reverend Cleophus James in the original Blues Brothers 1980 film?

Tickets will be reserved in the winner's name to be collected from The Orchard Ticket Office prior to the show. Please note that tickets cannot be transferred to any other time, date or show.

For further information on The Blues Brothers Xmas Party please call the The Orchard Ticket Office on 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

For our full Terms and Conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

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TALK TIME

KIM HILLS

Kent Highway Services' head of community operations talks to us about keeping Kent's roads safe throughout winter



How was last year's weather when it came to keeping the roads clear?

Last winter was one of the wettest and coldest for more than a decade. Due to our planning and preparations the majority of our roads were kept open, snow was cleared and we had enough salt in stock to carry out non-stop, night time salting. We are well prepared for the coming winter ahead.

How do you decide whether to send out the lorries or keep them in the depot?

We have 53 lorries which operate in Kent. From mid-October to mid-April we monitor the weather closely. Information is gathered every hour from 13 weather stations and then merged with a detailed weather forecast. The resulting information is issued to us three times a day by our forecast agency and specially trained winter duty officers assess this and turn it into a Kent Road Weather Forecast.

This year I believe you are using new technology to keep the roads clear?

We will be using a new pre-wet salt system on some of our roads. The salt is sprayed with water as it comes out of the back of the lorry. This means that it sticks to the road better and does not get blown away by the wind. It also means that we do not have to use as much salt. We estimate this system uses about 30 per cent less.

Are there alternatives to using salt?

There are materials which have been used on airport runways but they are more expensive and we could not afford to use them on the miles of road in Kent.

YOUR LETTERS



Horried about nearby hostel

I was horrified to read about the rapist who was living in Maidstone's only probation hostel who had been released from prison and then attacked a woman in her own home.

I live a few hundred yards from this hostel and hope the authorities will address the concerns of people living nearby.

I am sure you will receive dozens of letters from people who fear the people now being kept in this hostel – especially since Maidstone Prison is now for sex offenders – will increase the dangers to citizens of our town.

I appeal to Yourmaidstone not to let this incident go forgotten. We never want there to be a repeat.

Name and address withheld

Don't release those unready for society

Your front page story last week is a shock to our town and I am

glad our MP has taken an interest.

We all know that people leaving prison need to have some sort of halfway house for rehabilitation.

But the Probation Service must

have a responsibility to ensure these men are properly monitored and to ensure the people they support being released are really ready to come back into decent society.

Charles Felixton, by email



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourmaidstone.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourmaidstone.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Maidstone as well as our villages. We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourmaidstone before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out. On www.yourmaidstone.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly acclaimed e-editions.

Don't ever let this happen again

Maidstone has just one Probation Hostel in Tonbridge Road. This terrible attack on a woman in her own home must never be allowed to happen again.

The Probation Service has a duty to all of the people in our town – and indeed our country – to ensure monsters like James Donoghue are not freed from prison, and if they are, they must be properly monitored.

I am outraged about this and disgusted by the Probation Service's weasel words after the case.

I wish the poor victim well for the future.

Name and address with held

Jump 10,000 feet for kid's charity

This winter why not volunteer for an adrenaline-filled parachute jump for children's charity, Children Today?

Imagine yourself this winter standing at the doorway of an aeroplane 10,000 feet in the air, as you scan the winter wonderland that lies beneath you. Then it's all go, go, go as you leap from the plane and begin your action-packed descent back down to earth.

If this sounds like fun to you or even someone you know please contact Ceri Ward on 01244 335622 or email ceri@childrentoday.org.uk. We have a variety of different dates and locations all over the UK to choose from so call today!

Ceri Ward, ceri@childrentoday.org.uk

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Screen to let your heart be seen

Every day, at least one family in the UK will suffer the trauma of losing a young (aged 35 and under) person to an undiagnosed heart condition.

And, once again, the tragedy of sudden cardiac death in young people has been making news.

The premature death of Boyzone star Stephen Gately, aged just 33, highlights the indiscriminate and cruel nature of this syndrome which continues to claim the lives of at least 12 young people every week in the UK.

This week is Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) Awareness Week and we are committed to raising awareness of sudden cardiac death and the importance of screening.

In fact, we're proud to announce the launch of a new initiative to offer free screening to 14 year olds (born in 1995 – the year that CRY was founded) across the South East.

Eighty per cent of young people have no signs or symptoms, so the only way to detect a potentially sinister cardiac abnormality is by having a simple screening testing. We hope this pioneering new initiative will lay the foundations for a future national screening

programme that we know could save thousands of lives.

Please contact us if you would like information about our new screening programme for 14-year-olds. Or, if you or a family you know has been affected by sudden cardiac death or would like to find out more about the support services we provide, please visit www.c-r-y.org.uk.

Alison Cox MBE, Chief Executive and Founder of Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY)

Clock change sounds danger alarm bells

The heightened danger faced by pedestrians when the clocks go back must be taken more seriously.

The clocks went back on Sunday and RoSPA is urging pedestrians, as well as cyclists, to ensure they can be seen by motorists and for motorists to keep an even greater look out for them.

A total of 572 pedestrians were killed on our roads last year. Pedestrian deaths rose from 55 in October to 62 in November – the month in which the most pedestrian fatalities were recorded. In March 2008, 61 pedestrians were killed, but in April – after the clocks had moved forward – the figure dropped to 34.

We are also continuing to press for

the introduction of a system that would give an extra hour of daylight in the evening all year round.

RoSPA has been calling for many years for the UK to move to a system called "Single Double Summer Time" (SDST), which would put the clocks one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) in winter and two hours ahead of GMT in summer. This year, the campaign has received a boost from three publications.

In a report published last week, the Public Accounts Committee states that there is "substantial evidence" that fewer people would be killed and seriously injured on the roads if the clocks were put forward by one hour throughout the year.

In April, the Department for Transport launched a consultation which acknowledged research that found a move to SDST could reduce road deaths by around 80 per year and serious injuries by around 212 per year.

And in May, the National Audit Office published a report stating that there were 10 per cent more collisions killing or injuring a pedestrian in the four weeks following the clocks going back than in the four weeks before the clocks changed.

We will continue to call for a change which, we believe, would save lives and reduce injuries.

Jo Stagg, RoSPA, Birmingham

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yourleisure**Dancing to a new tune**

Last year's Strictly champion Alesha Dixon has seen an upturn in her career since she won TV audiences' hearts

ALESHA DIXON

Friday, November 6
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



CHAMPION dancer Alesha Dixon returns to the stage next week to perform for fans in Kent.

Since winning BBC's Strictly Come Dancing in 2007, Dixon has become a national sweetheart and her pop career has soared.

This year she was invited to return to the show as a judge, replacing Arlene Phillips on the panel, alongside Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood. Now a staple part of Saturday night television, Dixon, 31, is back on the road to entertain fans with her music.

Born in Hertfordshire, Dixon's early ambition was to become a PE teacher and she had been due to study at the sport-intensive Loughborough University.

But one fateful day she embarked on a train journey that would change her life – after being approached twice by music industry professionals who wanted to know if she could sing, Dixon decided to investigate a new career.

While taking dance lessons, she met Sabrina Washington, who joined her in the line-up of Mis-Teeq, an R&B girl group who would take the charts by storm in the early 2000s with hits such as Why?, All I Want, B With Me and Scandalous. The group disbanded in 2005 and Dixon achieved moderate success in the early stages of her solo career.

Dixon experienced a personal low when she discovered that her husband, MC Harvey of So Solid Crew, had been having an affair with Popstars The Rivals star Javine Hylton.

Combined with professional worries, this led to Dixon suffering from depression for several weeks before music turned her life around once again.

When she was asked to compete in Strictly Come Dancing in 2007, she amazed viewers with her warm personality and natural flair on the



dance-floor. Dixon was reportedly nervous about taking part in the show but, along with professional partner Matthew Cutler, she wowed audiences and the notoriously hard-to-please judges with her sizzling salsa and riotous rumba.

Her singing career also picked up

pace and she achieved two top-five singles with The Boy Does Nothing and Breathe Slow, while her album, The Alesha Show, went platinum this summer with sales of more than 300,000 copies.

To book tickets, call 0844 847 1776 or visit www.leascliffhall.org.uk.

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HALLOWEEN AT KENT LIFE

Until Sunday, November 1
Kent Life, Maidstone

ENJOY a spooktacular Halloween steeped in history as Kent Life gets into the spirit of half-term.

There are activities taking place throughout the week, including ferret racing, animal dressing up and the nationwide Big Draw competition.

Kent Life will be offering a prize for the best picture of their friendly residents, who could be a little bit freaky too, so children should start perfecting their spooky sheep or ghoulish goats to be in with a chance of winning.

On Saturday there will be a special Halloween event in which young trick-or-treaters can knock on the doors of Kent Life's period



houses and meet the past residents who lived in them during the last 150 years.

Watch the local witches cast their spells on the green, listen to spine-tingling storytelling in the village hall or, if you are feeling really courageous, enter the

terrifying Tunnel of Doom.

The hog roast is sure to restore the spirits, but visitors must watch out for all the ghosts that might be lurking in the shadows.

For details go online at www.kentlife.org.uk or call 01622 763936.

THE NUTCRACKER

Sunday, November 1
Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone

ENTER the magical world of The Nutcracker when the Vienna Festival Ballet returns to Maidstone.

Tchaikovsky's classical ballet is a favourite festive treat for audiences of all ages, with its enchanting score and unforgettable characters. When young Clara is presented with a nutcracker doll, she has no idea that it has been bewitched and an extraordinary adventure awaits her.

The doll transforms into a dashing soldier and guides her into a wonderful world, where she meets the Sugar Plum Fairy and discovers a kingdom made entirely of sweets. But the Mouse King is also at large and must be overcome.

Formed in 1980 by Austrian dancer Peter Mallek, the Vienna Festival



Ballet gives talented young dancers the chance to perform classical ballets around the world.

With an average age of 20, the company gives a vibrant and fresh take on the much-

loved classical repertoire.

Performances start at 2pm and 5pm and tickets cost £18.50/£15.50. To book call the box office on 01622 758611 or go to www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

ALCAZABA

Friday, October 30
Exchange Studio, Maidstone

EXPERIENCE a vibrant blend of Middle Eastern, Indian and flamenco music when Alcazaba performs.

With captivating melodies, electrifying beats and the heartfelt vocals of flamenco, the ensemble creates a true fusion of influences, which has earned a strong following in both the flamenco and world music scenes.

Tracing a natural evolution rather than forcing styles together, Alcazaba gives virtuoso acoustic performances that transcend musical barriers.

A chance meeting of two exceptional musicians, Ramón Ruiz and Attab Haddad, in London in 2005 led to the formation of the group with Genevieve Wilkins, Teymour Housego and flamenco singer Eva



Piñero Mesa. Their debut CD, which was released by ShivaNova/Universal in July this year, has been played on a number of radio stations including BBC Radio 3 and they have performed for a wide variety of audiences, including the Rise Festival, Ealing Global Festival, the Indian High

Commission's Nehru Centre and The Royal Asiatic Society.

The performance starts at 7.30pm and advance tickets cost £10/£8 or £26 for families. Ticket prices rise by £2 on the door.

To book call 01622 758611 or visit www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Weekend of fireworks to suit every taste

MAKE your Halloween go with a bang as The Hop Farm hosts not one, but two firework spectacles.

On Saturday, the Paddock Wood attraction hosts a family display with a Disney theme at 5pm, followed by a Halloween display at 8pm. At 6pm on Sunday there is a sci-fi-themed firework extravaganza. For details go to www.thehopfarm.co.uk or call 01622 872068.

Meet town's ghosts on spooky guided walk

WALK with the ghosts of Tunbridge Wells on a guided tour of The Pantiles.

The first hour-long walk is on Friday, followed by a Halloween version on Saturday, and continue every Thursday and Friday night in November. They leave the Corn Exchange at 6pm. Tickets are £5.50 for adults and free for accompanied under-16s. Call Tunbridge Wells Tourist Information Centre on 01892 515675, or go to www.thepantilesonline.co.uk.

Jazz pianist entertains at pizza restaurant

ONE of the UK's most inspirational jazz pianists visits Maidstone this weekend.

As a studio musician, Geoff Eales worked with artists such as Jose Carreras and Andrew Lloyd Webber. He is joined by Chris Laurence on bass and Martin France on drums for Saturday's concert at Pizza Express in Earl Street at 7pm. Tickets cost £15. Book at www.pizzaexpresslive.co.uk.

Messiah concert marks Handel's anniversary

TO mark the 250th anniversary of Handel's death, Maidstone Choral Union will perform his Messiah.

Conducted by Martin Hindmarsh, the performance is at Mote Hall at Maidstone Leisure Centre at 7.30pm on Saturday. Tickets cost from £6 to £15 from Sharon Music in High Street, the Ticket Secretary on 01622 726193, Maidstone Leisure Centre on 0845 155 2277 and the Visitor Information Centre on 01622 602169.

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the Kent local search directory - Telephone: 01303 817150

Good food, with great entertainment at hotel

■ Verve Grill, The Village Hotel

CREATIVE seasonal menus are one of the major attractions at the Verve Grill, part of the popular Village Hotel in Maidstone.

A relaxed and intimate atmosphere allows diners to sample excellent food and drink with the knowledgeable and friendly staff always on hand to cater for their requirements.

Christmas bookings are now being taken and the venue is open on Christmas Eve, the day itself, Boxing Day and New Year's Eve.

But it's girl-themed nights this autumn, with a Duffy and Lily Allen Tribute on Friday, November 6, and an Amy Winehouse tribute three weeks after that. The cost is £22 per person which includes a two-course dinner, entertainment and DJ.

The Sunday carvery is well-known in the area as a great treat, with a menu complemented by a Nintendo entertainment zone for youngsters, who get their own goody bag.

Thursday is another night for the ladies, with a two-girl special menu of two courses and two glasses of wine between a pair for just £25. Other girls can join the party at £12.50 a head, but bookings are essential.

Tailor-made menus can be created for all sorts of occasions, such as weddings, birthdays and anniversaries and a talented



brigade of chefs is on hand to listen to all requests which can be pre-planned to the smallest detail.

Modern classics, such as great steaks, are always a popular choice, but the restaurant is open to all sorts of food requests.

Breakfast is available from 7-9.30am Monday to Friday, until 10.30am on Saturday and from 8-10.30am on Sunday.

Sunday lunch – including a five-course all-you-can-eat carvery – costs £14.95 and is available from 1pm, while dinner is served from Monday to Saturday from 6-9.45pm and on Sundays from 6-9.30pm.

The hotel also has a health and fitness club, the Victory pub and a Starbucks.

Verve Grill, Forstal Road, Maidstone (just off junction 6 M20) Telephone 01622 672200, www.village-hotels.co.uk

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The collection will be available from selected Peacocks stores from Monday.

Goods Shed selected for a Radio 4 award

A CANTERBURY daily market has been selected as a finalist in the BBC Radio 4 Food and Farming Awards 2009.

The Goods Shed will compete against businesses from Suffolk and Cardiff to win the title of Best Food Market.

Another Kent business, Dungeness fishmonger M&M Richardson, is a finalist in the Best Local Food Retailer category.

The panel of judges is chaired by chef Raymond Blanc and the award ceremony will take place in London, November 25.

Aussie lingerie at low prices at Outlet store

LADIES can buy superior lingerie at discount prices when Bendon Lingerie opens at Ashford Designer Outlet.

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The company also offers a bra-fitting service. Bendon Lingerie opens on Saturday. You can find out more at www.ashforddesigneroutlet.com.

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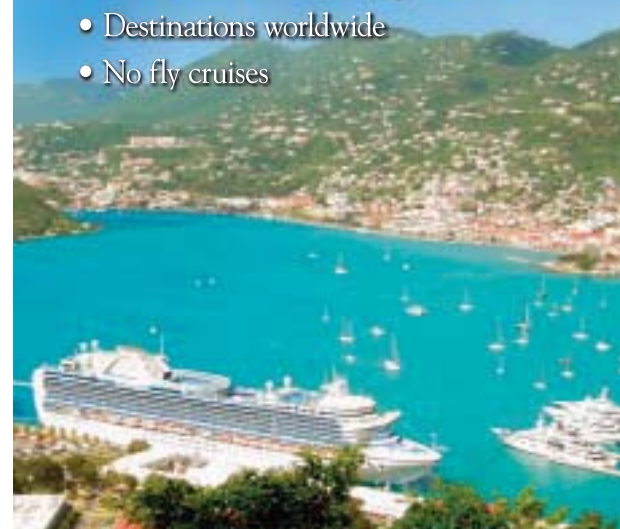
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At the bottom of Old Loose Hill is The Chequers Inn which is located next to All Saints Church on the river bank and is well known for its traditional English menu.

It is believed that the former landlord of the Chequers Inn used to keep horses at the bottom of Old Loose Hill to help haul carts up the steep hill.

Although the original ragstone village

is set in the valley a large surrounding area is also regarded as Loose and includes post offices, schools, village shops, hairdressers, florist and plenty of country pubs and takeaway shops.

On the outskirts of the village is The Swan Inn and next to the large community park is The Walnut Tree - which are both popular with the residents.

The area attracts families due to its range of schools, including Loose Primary and Infant School and the New Line Learning Academy, which sits on the former Oldborough Manor School site.

The village is also closely located near to neighbouring villages Boughton Monchelsea and Coxheath, and offers good public transport links to the town centre.



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Harrietsham

THE village of Harrietsham has good links to the motorways and railway lines but it still maintains its charming historic character and peaceful lifestyle.

Harrietsham is located at the foot of the North Downs – an outstanding area of natural beauty – and the Downs' water springs feed the village lakes and waterways, which attracts plenty of wildlife.

A number of archaeological finds from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and from Roman and Saxon settlements have been discovered to the east of the Woodland Walk lakes. Saxon burial urns have also been found on the Glebe Field and in the churchyard.

Harrietsham's community embraces village life and there are plenty of organisations to keep everyone occupied, including badminton club, a weekly coffee morning on Fridays at the community centre, karate lessons and a bowls club.

To ensure the youngsters have their fun as well the village Remix Project hosts various clubs for children of all ages, including the Mini Beats, Rockers Club, Youth and Film club.

The volunteer-run project allows the youngsters to enjoy dancing, drama, playing musical instruments and putting on live shows.



After the villagers have finished with the activities there are plenty of places to relax such as The Pepperbox Inn, The Taste of Bengal and The Ringlestone Inn.

For the more lively evening there is Victoria's Cabaret Club on the A20 which offers regular dinner and music tribute act nights.

There is also the traditional village shop which offers all the everyday necessities and a good spot for the daily catch-up with the neighbours.

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A 10% service charge will be added to parties of six or more. A non-refundable deposit of £10 per person is required to secure all bookings.

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www.thepepperboxinn.co.uk



yourmaidstone**music**

Radio One's 'Mr Marmite' on the decks at clubnight



HEADLINER: Zane Lowe covers the musical spectrum

■ BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

KIWI DJ Zane Lowe will come to Maidstone next month to headline a Mixmag magazine clubnight.

The straggly-bearded MTV presenter and third most annoying Radio 1 host* will take to The Loft nightclub's decks on Saturday, November 7.

Mr Lowe is joined on the bill by fellow BBC staffers Andy George and Jaymo, as well as Mixmag DJs I Am One and Matt Cox.

A spokesman for organisers 666 said they were looking forward to welcoming the night's headliner to Maidstone.

"This will be Zane Lowe's second performance in Maidstone following his immense set at last year's Radio 1 Big Weekend, and as one of the most in-demand DJs on the planet, this is a tremendous coup for Kent's number one music club," he said.

"Anyone who listens to Zane's outstanding Radio 1 show knows he covers the entire musical spectrum, and we expect his DJ set to be no different as he headlines one of the biggest nights ever at The Loft.

"This event will sell out, so buy your ticket early to avoid missing out."

The line-up also includes big-hitting DJs such as Friction and Technicolour.

Support will also be provided by the likes of Twisted DJs, Mart Taylor, Unknown Error, Duncan K and Hijak Allstars.

The night runs from 9pm to 6am at the Maidstone town centre club.

Tickets cost £12 per person and can be bought at www.dontstayin.com



SUPPORT: BBC staffers Andy George and Jaymo

*Congratulations go to Mr Chris Moyles (first place) and Mr Tim Westwood (a close second).

The Beeb has a proud history in employing musical 'Mr Marmites'; the love 'em or loathe them types – the DJs who are to radio what Jeremy Kyle is to television.


And these three men together – Messrs Lowe, Moyles and Westwood – ensure my radio dial never reaches the dark, dark figures of 97 to 99 fm.

They are BBC employees, and therefore bound by the corporation's mandate of 'inform, educate and entertain'.


So why do we have an obnoxious northerner (Moyles) and his partner-in-crime 'comedy' Dave, a privately-educated, middle-class Anglican bishop's son turned hip-hop/grime know-it-all and drive-by shooting victim (Westwood) and a sickeningly sycophantic indie/dance DJ (Lowe) polluting our airwaves? Just my opinion, mind.

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- 3 CWB - 14/11 The View, Folkestone
- 4 Shychlo and Boys - 19/11 Beer Cart Arms, Canterbury
- 5 The Suspects - 20/11 The Plough, Swalecliffe

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yourmaidstone timeout

YOUR TV REVIEW

BY TOM BETTS

PEEP SHOW
Channel 4, 10pm, Friday

IT'S taken me a while to get into Peep Show, but I'm glad I have.

I came to it late, about halfway through series five, but was instantly hooked.

Goodness alone knows why I had neglected it before – I'd heard people singing its praises for years, but it was just one of those things I never got round to, a bit like re-tiling the bathroom.

Each week we meet Mark Corrigan and Jeremy Osborne, two of life's losers, who inhabit a tower-block flat in London together, more out of obligation to an old, stilted friendship forged at university rather than through actual choice.

The 'El Dude Brothers' (which they occasionally refer to themselves as) constantly wind each other up and generally rue their lot in life but stick together anyway to face what it throws at them.

Mark, played by David Mitchell, is a reasonably nice guy who just wants to settle down with a cup of tea and play a game of Risk, safe in the knowledge that he has a decent pension plan in place, but nothing ever goes quite right for him.

He has got the wrong woman pregnant, lives in fear of his charismatic but possibly unhinged boss Alan Johnson and wishes he could turn back time so he could live happily ever after with work colleague Dobby, a female fellow geek for whom he carries a torch.

Jeremy, played by Robert Webb, is a far less agreeable character whose selfishness and workshy nature know no bounds, although his band-mate Super Hans makes him look like a saint.



ODD COUPLE: David Mitchell and Robert Webb star as losers Mark and Jeremy in Peep Show

The two trundle forward, meeting ever-more obnoxious people along the way, as Mark dreams of an equitable life and Jeremy of impending rock superstardom.

While you find sympathy with Mark's plight, Jeremy seems to get just what he deserves.

What sets this apart from other sitcoms is the internal monologue of the two main characters as they try to scheme and bluff their way through the day as best they can.

What they're thinking is always funnier than what's being said out loud.

The clever part is that millions of us can identify with rarely being able to say what's actually on your mind.

This dynamic is the vital cog here and in particular Mitchell's contributions stand out.

All of this series, and the entire previous series, are available to watch on Channel 4's On Demand internet service if, like me, you didn't have the brain to tune in many years ago.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
IMPROVING your qualifications should be your first priority in the coming weeks. If your boss offers to pay your tuition, seize the opportunity. Being able to study a subject that has always fascinated you will prove fulfilling. It will also open some exciting new career doors.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
THESE days jobs are few and far between. Fortunately, you've always been a conscientious worker so you can find steady employment. It's just a matter of stressing your record and work ethic. If you go for a job interview, to ask a prospective employer to hire you on a trial basis.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
YOUR powers of concentration are at an all-time high. This would be a great time to acquire a valuable skill. It may take a couple of years to master it, but when you do you'll be able to write your own ticket as far as jobs are concerned. Seek out an instructor with whom you connect.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
YOU'RE starting a solitary phase, preferring your own company to mingling with crowds. If a living arrangement hasn't been working, you may decide to get your own place. Alternatively, you could move to a secluded rural area after having inhibited a bustling city.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
PUTTING away money for loved ones has become increasingly important. Providing a secure financial base is your main motivation. Even if you're not flush with cash you can put a small percentage of your income into a savings. The gesture will speak volumes to loved ones.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
RELAXATION will be increasingly difficult. You've had so many responsibilities; you've got used to running a constant round of errands. Force yourself to take regular breaks. Even enjoying long weekends away will restore your sense of well-being.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
LONG-term financial planning is essential to your peace of mind. You've always been a practical person. Knowing you have cash reserves will help you to take more risks on the romantic and creative fronts. If money is tight right now, you'll learn to live on a budget.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
YOU'VE always had a huge crowd of friends, but don't be surprised if your social circle starts to tighten. Maintaining all these relationships has become impossible. You'd rather spend quality time with a few quality people than be run ragged among casual acquaintances.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
LIVING up to an agreement is very important. If you don't have the money to fulfil a legal settlement, approach the involved parties. Explain your situation and be prepared to back up your claims. Together you can hammer out an arrangement better suited to your current position.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
DEVOTION to family could keep you anchored to home. Moving back to your place of birth is a strong possibility. If you're given a beautiful family heirloom, be sure to put it to use. Don't save it for special occasions. Seeing this item will give you a warm sense of security.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
IN the past, people have accused you of being scatterbrained or indecisive. That's about to change. Taking a more disciplined approach to work and home will ease your anxiety. This will also improve your relationships. You'll enjoy quality time with your nearest and dearest.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
YOUR chances of career success are greater than ever. You've always been intent on reaching the top, now the universe is poised to help. A high-powered position could open up or you could be recruited by a rival company that likes your style. It's possible you'll switch industries.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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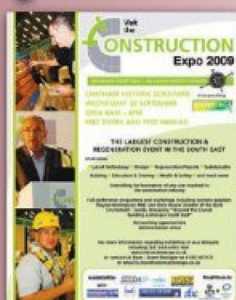
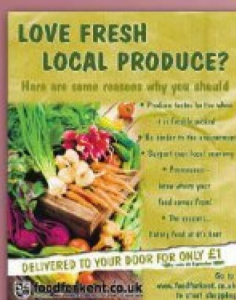
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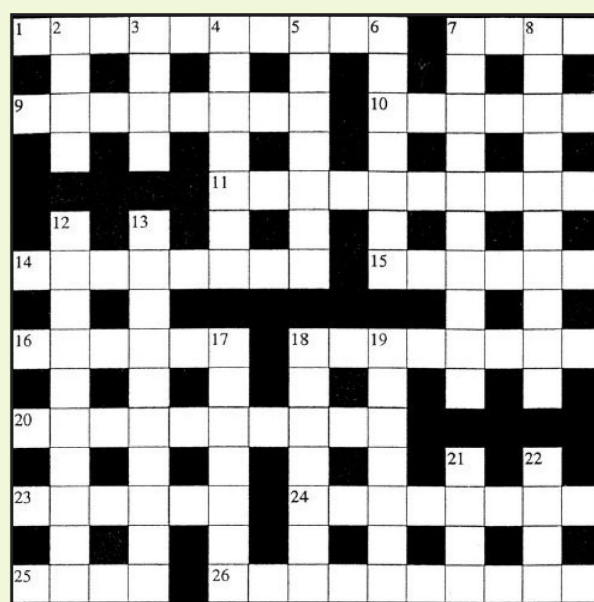
ACROSS

- 1 Penny entered cut that had been reduced at time of landing (10)
7 Leg-pull, short-cut after half-hour (4)
9 Ward for accident-prone child? (8)
10 In truth remarkable livery (6)
11 Active diminutive lady has house-plant (4,6)
14 Monthly? Imposingly (8)
15 Pulled US journalist (6)
16 Seaweed, pronouncedly icy, on fungus (6)
18 Go-between reached agencies' high point (8)
20 It costs the traveller nothing (4,6)
23 Bach and Elgar included another composer (6)
24 Bird's pale headgear (8)
25 Support one in pen (4)
26 Tourist who does not fall over at night? (3-7)

DOWN

- 2 A pet playing with fuel (4)
3 One weird flower (4)
4 A politician in shed having fish (7)
5 Body's losing head, sure to turn up in epic (7)
6 Something new found in cracker (7)
7 Level line soaring interminably (10)
8 Greatest ever depression, this depth has never been reached before (3-4,3)
12 Urgent, a jug ordered from lorry (10)
13 One of 28 parts of a week? (7-3)
17 The French youngster outside was discouraged (7)
18 Advance, create established routine (4,3)
19 It's more crazy having Dorothy on the level (7)
21 & 22 Eek! Speak about souvenir (8)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Dachshund (7,3)
7 Brandish (4)
9 Register one's departure from work (5,3)
10 Stinging plant (6)
11 Speechless (10)
14 Splinted (anag.) (5,3)
15 Scanty (6)
16 Sir (6)
18 Parasol (8)
20 Whimsicality (10)
23 Senior journalist (6)
24 Taken into the body (8)
25 Reptile (abbrev.) (4)
26 Linger (5-5)

DOWN

- 2 Spindle (4)
3 Draw into the mouth (4)
4 Tynesider (7)
5 Slandered (7)
6 First OT book (7)
7 Flawless (10)
8 Old bicycle (10)
12 High kick in rugby (2-3-5)
13 Nationalistic (10)
17 Instructed (7)
18 Particular (7)
19 Bouquet (7)
21 Continent (4)
22 Zing (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No110

EASY

9	8	1	6	7	5	2	4	3
2	4	7	3	1	8	9	6	5
5	3	6	9	2	4	1	7	8
3	9	8	1	6	7	4	5	2
6	7	2	4	5	9	3	8	1
1	5	4	2	8	3	7	9	6
8	1	9	7	3	6	5	2	4
7	2	5	8	4	1	6	3	9
4	6	3	5	9	2	8	1	7

MEDIUM

1	2	8	7	5	6	3	9	4
6	4	5	3	1	9	7	2	8
9	3	7	2	8	4	6	1	5
2	8	4	1	9	3	5	7	6
3	6	1	5	7	2	4	8	9
7	5	9	6	4	8	2	3	1
4	9	2	8	3	5	1	6	7
8	1	3	4	6	7	9	5	2
5	7	6	9	2	1	8	4	3

HARD

4	2	9	1	5	7	3	6	8
5	3	6	4	8	9	7	1	2
7	1	8	6	3	2	4	5	9
2	9	3	5	7	6	1	8	4
1	6	7	8	2	4	9	3	5
8	5	4	9	1	3	6	2	7
3	4	1	2	9	5	8	7	6
9	8	5	7	6	1	2	4	3
6	7	2	3	4	8	5	9	1

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No110

ACROSS: 1 Blockbuster 9 Stolid 10 Routine 12 Railing 14 Nonagon 15 Junction box 16 Rub 17 Dip 19 Kangaroo-hop 22 Calends 23 Degrade 24 Ariadne 25 Sent in 26 Small change. DOWN: 2 Latvian 3 Cellist 4 Bud 5 Springboard 6 Equinox 7 Finger 8 Teeny-bopper 11 Prejudicial 13 Groundswell 18 Pelvis 19 Kingdom 20 Organza 21 Heading 25 Sic.

QUICK SOLUTION No111

22 Zeal.
17 Tufores 18 Special 19 Nosegay 21 Asia
8 Veicoped 12 Up-and-under 13 Jingoistic
Geordie 5 Defamed 6 Genesis 7 Watertight
26 Dilly-dally. DOWN: 2 Alike 3 Suck 4
15 Skimpy 16 Knight 18 Sunshade 20
Quaintness 23 Editor 24 Ingested 25 Croc
off 10 Nettle 11 Dumbstruck 14 Split end
ACROSS: 11 Sausage dog 7 Wave 9 Clock

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website



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PROPERTY NEWS

Developer's emphasis on picturesque plans

HILLREED Homes is proud to have what it calls "picturesque policy" for street scenes in new developments that highlight the landscape.

An example of the company's design policy can be seen at Highland Park, Green Fields Lane, Ashford.

This is a large development offering a wide range of homes, several of which are built on a gentle hillside so many owners benefit from spectacular views across the surrounding area.

"Providing homes in pleasant settings is part of Hillreed Home's policy," said marketing manager Jo Richards.

A spokesman for the company added: "The high-speed train is offering tremendous potential to open up the region, providing super-fast commuting to central London.

"The Channel Tunnel is equally accessible, with shops aplenty in Ashford backed up by easy-to-reach Maidstone.

"This is the area in which to invest as Government money is pumped into this highly desirable south-eastern part of the UK."

Buy-to-let market shows it's back in the groove

THE property slump which saw buy-to-let mortgages drop out of the market is now in a healthier state and they are coming back.

Hopes are growing that lenders may soon be starting to offer buy-to-let loans as demand for rental properties holds up.

Moneysupermarket.com reports the number of enquiries about buy-to-let mortgages has risen by almost 50 per cent in the last year.

However, there are now 70 per cent fewer products on the market.

Hannah Mercedes-Shenfield, at moneysupermarket, said: "With significantly fewer products left on the market and high interest rates attached to those available we could potentially have a ticking buy-to-let timebomb on our hands – the need for rental housing is increasing, but there may not be enough landlords to cater for this demand."

There is good news to report despite downturn

■ BY NICK AMES

THE Kent property market recorded an encouraging performance during 2008/09 despite the downturn, according to the latest Kent Property Market Report.

The report, launched to an audience of almost 200 property professionals at Ashford International Hotel, reveals that despite the challenging economic climate, office rental values in the county remained stable, growing by 0.4 per cent in comparison with the UK average, which fell by 3.8 per cent.

Kent Property Market Report, written by Kent County Council and property experts Cluttons LLP, is produced by investment promotion agency Locate in Kent.

It reviews property performance and major deals in Kent in the financial year April 2008 to March 2009 and provides insight into residential, retail and regeneration programmes and, for the first time, the rural property market.

Ashford is already benefiting from Southeastern's preview high-speed rail services, meaning journeys from Ashford International Station into London take only 37 minutes.

The launch of full services in December is likely to fuel further investment and growth in the town, pointing towards a positive and encouraging economic outlook.

Paul Carter, leader of KCC, said: "This report shows that Kent is resilient and is coming out of this recession fighting. Kent has fared well in comparison to the rest of the UK. At KCC we see regeneration as a major responsibility.

"We will continue to invest in roads, schools and major regeneration schemes such as those in Ashford.

"And as a county we must take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the arrival of high-speed rail services to Kent."

Ashford's Growth Area development strategy is making good progress, which includes planning approval for Victoria Way, a proposed



ENCOURAGING: The county has fared well over 2008/09 according to the latest Kent Property Market Report

new road that will improve access to the station and the town centre. The variety of regeneration projects in the town show encouraging signs for the future and included the mixed-use development Elwick Place, a new commercial office quarter near the train station and the new Herald building at Eureka Park.

Alison Owen, partner at Cluttons LLP, said: "Property developers have proved flexible this year in response to demand and are focusing efforts on smaller-unit schemes offering shorter-term lettings.

"Credit constraints are continuing to have an effect on both the residential and commercial property markets; however, the report shows that there continues to be an excellent supply of office space at affordable prices.

"Rural property assets have witnessed a real

resurgence in the last year, with investors looking for steady returns."

Paul Wookey, chief executive of Locate in Kent, said: "During the year, Locate in Kent recorded 246 new projects, representing an increase on last year, further proving that interest in Kent from UK and international investors remains strong.

"We will continue to aggressively target high-growth and high-value sectors, including financial and business services, software infrastructure technologies, life sciences and environmental technologies.

"We want to tap into the UK government's growth ambitions and Kent has a key role to play in helping the UK reach its full potential as a world class leader in environmental technologies."

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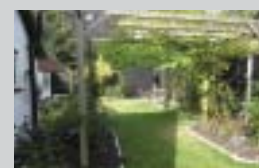
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PUBLIC NOTICE

144 Westmorland Rd, & Land Adjoining, 144 Westmorland Rd, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 8JQ. By Order of the mortgages in possession, we would advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £140,000. Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. Connells, 30 King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1BS, Tel: 01622 751034.

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WOMEN seeking men

MY EVERYTHING Ashford based, bubbly and fun single mum, 23yr old, curvy build, brunette, likes reading and socialising. WLTm like minded male. Box 457472 **1**

MATCH OF THE DAY! Fun-to-be with, blonde female, 25, 5ft1, loves things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879391 **1**

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT... Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 **1**

IS ANYONE OUT THERE? 31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTm cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879391 **1**

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471 **1**

A FAIRYTALE ENDING! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek, 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 **1**

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTm intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 **1**

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453036 **1**

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 **1**

STARRY NIGHTS Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best things in life. Box 877873 **1**

WHAT YOU SEE... Young looking 36 year old, 5ft4, brown eyes, slim, one daughter, hard working, very sincere and caring, genuine, GSOH, seeks similar male 33-43. Rochester. Box 460307 **1**

HISTORIC MEETING? Mum of three, 36, long mousy hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 450493 **1**

GALLOP AHEAD! Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest and have 4 children, enjoys drives and horse riding, and WLTm honest, reliable man. Box 451311 **1**

BE MINE Honest and caring woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest and have 4 children, enjoys drives and horse riding. Maidstone. Box 456159 **1**

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 **1**

JUST ONE QUESTION... A warm, generous, attractive and caring lady, 40, seeks soulmate who will love, respect and cherish her. What's taking you so long? Box 873458 **1**

A SOUL MATE Black Christian girl, 39, likes country music, loving, considerate, kind and caring, looking for a like-minded man, 32-50, with a pretty inside. Box 453066 **1**

WANNA RIDE WITH YOU Curvaceous lady, 40, 5ft8, long curly hair, into motorbikes!! Single mum, seeks fun-loving bike fan for rides into the sunset. Eastbourne. Box 458787 **1**

YOUNG-AT-HEART Attractive 39yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun, man for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 **1**

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **1**

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JOINED AT THE HIP Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434 **1**

TLC ON OFFER Bubbly, happy, outgoing 41yr old female, enjoying life to the full, like writing, walking, watching DVDs, WLTm like-minded, happy-go-lucky, clean male for friendship and more. Box 459271 **1**

PRETTY IN PINK Feminine lady, 41, no children some pets, like pink, pop music, astrology, dining out, dancing and singing, collectibles, seeking a man with a nice soh. Box 460397 **1**

BETWEEN US Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, outgoing, fun-loving, professional, looking for white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900 **1**

FOR A RELATIONSHIP? Shy but confident-one known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106 **1**

LOVE IS ALL AROUND Happy-go-lucky, bubbly blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley Box 454517 **1**

HELLO EVERYONE! Single dog-owner, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WLTm a non-smoking guy to share it all with. Seaford Box 454569 **1**

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HAPPY TIMES ARE HERE TO STAY Single mum, 42, 5ft6, likes fun nights out, cinema, meals out, cuddles and kisses, looking for a fun-loving gent to share happy times with. Ashford Box 459692 **1**

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU Audrey here, I live in Seaford, and WLTm caring man. I'm fun loving, loyal, honest, adventurous, and love animals, cooking, music, film, countryside. Box 872159 **1**

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc, looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gosh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348 **1**

A CHANCE FOR ROMANCE Energetic 43yr old female, 5'9", short dark hair/blue eyes, slim, have grown up daughter, love the outdoors, cooking, good food, music, days out, country walks...Medway. Box 456868 **1**

TALL ORDER Curvy lady, 5ft9, 43yrs old, blonde hair/green eyes, I live in Deal in Kent, I'm down-to-earth and like being out and about. Box 456020 **1**

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, gosh, looking for a man with no issues and gosh who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204 **1**

ACTIVE TYPE Lively, energetic fun loving mum, 42, 5ft3, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair, hazel eyes, WLTm honest, fun, mixed race/black gent, for lasting relationship. Box 451819 **1**

HOW YOU DOING? Attractive curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128 **1**

SWEET AS HONEY Petite, slim, honey-blond lady, 5'4" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing, looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458485 **1**

LOVE TO MEET YOU Kind woman, 42, outgoing, happy-go-lucky, sometimes shy, likes gardening, socialising, travel, walks, looking for happy, fun fella. Aylesford Box 428464 **1**

STARTING OVER Divorced 45yr old cuddly woman, brown eyes/hair, likes swimming, animals, cinema, soaps, the beach. WLTm a honest, non-smoking man for friendship, maybe more. Ashford Box 878141 **1**

RECIPES FOR ROMANCE GSOH, honest, romantic and reliable woman, 45, dark blonde hair/blue eyes, WLTm honest and reliable man 40-55, likes reading, cooking, walks, theatre, animals. Box 457521 **1**

TOO MUCH TO ASK? Divorced lady, 45, young looking, blonde, 5ft5. I'm well travelled and have many interests. WLTm black or mixed race, loving man for LTR. Chatham. Box 459246 **1**

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 **1**

MY PRINCE? Not-just-for-xmas dog lover, into sports, walks, motorbikes, GSOH, female, 47, pretty, long dark hair, looking for knight in shining armour! East Sussex area. Box 872961 **1**

ETERNALLY YOURS Easygoing woman, likes most things in life; country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5ft2, medium build, WLTm genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635 **1**

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME? Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 **1**

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy. Box 425952 **1**

TWO LOVELY LADIES UP FOR GRABS! Two bubbly divorced ladies, 48 and 50, looking for two normal divorced guys, early 30s, for happy times and romance. East Sussex Box 456876 **1**

ARE YOU LOVING AND CARING? Young 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubbly, 5ft5, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating out, cosy nights, good company. Box 434089 **1**

INTO THE SUNSET Romantic lady, 50, 5'5", blue eyes brown hair, likes to travel, site see, go out, seeking a special man in my life. Dover. Box 460287 **1**

JUST IMAGINE Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTm genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 **1**

CARING & PROFESSIONAL Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 471100 **1**

NOTHING VENTURED... Hi there, I'm a Sussex based, 51yr old woman, I love eating out, historical sites etc, looking for kind gent for friendship, evenings out, maybe more. Box 459181 **1**

LOVELY BUBBLY Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 **1**

FUNNY GIRL Petite, blonde female, 51, GSOH, likes music, books, films, cooking, looking for romantic soul-mate 45-55 for TLC. Kent. Box 835181 **1**

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTm similar loving male. Box 443642 **1**

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?! Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music; looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 **1**

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HOLDING OUT FOR A HERO Londoner new to the area, 57, 5ft5, slim attractive blonde, seeking a man for serious relationship and lasting happiness. Box 449587 **1**

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS! Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad, seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 **1**

ANIMAL WORLD Attractive lady, non-smoker, aged 57, GSOH, enjoys eating in/out, seeing friends, theatre, animals, and WLTm similar, non-smoking male. Box 452498 **1**

TIME TO LOVE Slim and active woman, 57, 5ft2, brown hair/green eyes, likes walking, riding, PO, animals, seeking a non-smoking genuine gent for a meaningful relationship. Rochester. Box 456773 **1**

MAKE A NEW FRIEND Fun-loving lady, 58, 5ft4, dark hair, single mum! Likes countryside walks, reading, cooking and cosy nights in, seeks similar male. Folkestone. Box 460420 **1**

DIVORCED Loving, kind, honest female, 58, 5ft6, interests include the countryside, old pubs, music, reading and baking, looking for that special someone to enjoy life with. Box 878455 **1**

WALKS ALONG THE COAST Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 **1**

MUSIC TO MY EARS Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 413914 **1**

DREAMS OF YOU Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 448566 **1**

BRIGHTENING UP Cuddly lady, 61, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more. WLTm tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214 **1**

SIMPLE PLEASURES Hi there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build. I love dancing, walking by the sea and WLTm like minded gent. Box 459467 **1**

LOVE ME DO Loving and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 460082 **1**

SOMEbody TO LAUGH WITH... Loving lady looking for companionship, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, loves dancing, walks and meals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 446382 **1**

HAPPILY EVER AFTER Happy-go-lucky attractive female, 65, petite, likes gardening, swimming and walking, looking for a honest and reliable man to share life with. Ashford Box 454370 **1**

MEANT TO MEET... Grounded lady of 73, looking for companionship with a similar gentleman who wants to share and enjoy all of life's pleasures. Box 453141 **1**

Women seeking women

A LITTLE AFFECTION Intelligent, cheeky, emotional female, 44, WLTm similar woman, 35-65, for walks, museum/art trips, wine/dining, theatre, good conversation & friendship first, maybe more. Pref Eastbourne area. Box 873058 **1**

HOPE YOU'RE OUT THERE? Sincere female, 49, likes football, animals, country pursuits, seeks feminine woman for friendship, maybe more. Gillingham. Box 456805 **1**

TABLE FOR 2? Homely type woman, 50, looking for a similar female. I'm 5ft5, salt & pepper hair, I'm honest and trust worthy. Looking for the same. Hastings. Box 455737 **1**

ATTRACTIVE, BUBBLY Lady 52yrs, 5ft6, blonde, size 12 enjoys good food/wine, theatre, countryside, holidays, seeking a sincere, genuine female, for friendship first, possibly relationship. Box 414143 **1**

VOLUPTUOUS LADY Curvy lady, 57, very loving and graceful, enjoy the beach, music, walking, theatre, and reading, looking for a lady 50-70. Box 458935 **1**

TRUE LOVE Fit and good-looking male, 44, 5ft8, dark hair/eyes, own house, honest and reliable, looking for a woman to find true love with. Brighton. Box 455727 **1**

WISHFULLY YOURS Warm hearted male, 44, 6ft, blond, blue eyes, charity support worker, enjoys keeping fit, cinema, football, driving, looking for a sincere woman for life. Box 454415 **1**

TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP Hard-working, true gent, 44, reliable, trusting, loving, genuine, enjoys sports, cars, socialising, music, films, seeks oriental or black love of his life. Box 451917 **1**

ALL NIGHT LONG I'm 44, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft6, loves the cinema and beach walks, music, nights in and out, cooking, seeking female 35-52 for promising relationship. Box 449992 **1**

INTRODUCE US Hi there! I'm a painter/decorator, and I enjoy doing things for charity, and seeing the lads. I'm male, 43, blond hair/blue eyes, slim build, 4 children. Box 451519 **1**

LONG-TERM THING Caring, romantic, loyal guy, 45, 5ft11, slim/medium build, brown hair and blue eyes, gosh, WLTm lady/singlism 25-40, slim/medium build. Hastings. Box 451334 **1**

GENUINE AND RELIABLE 44yr old single man, 5ft11, slim, brown hair/eyes, likes nights out/days in, looking for a mature curvy female for friendship, good times, hopefully something lasting. Box 452924 **1**

OFFER ME YOUR LOVE Easygoing male, 45, young looking, 6'4", tall, green eyes, short fair hair, Average build, WLTm like-minded lady, 30-48, for friendship and maybe more. Box 875789 **1**

ALONG THE SHORE Considerate, reliable guy, 44, slim build, 5ft11, likes days out, the coast, nights in, pubs. WLTm kind female, 30-52, for friendship, leading to LTR. Box 448919 **1**

AN ATTRACTIVE OFFER Handsome, tall male, 38, 6'4", looking for a young lady to slowly re-discover the finer things in life. Box 454805 **1**

CHEER ME UP 39yr old male, GSOH, like the normal things in life, WLTm a female for fun and possible relationship. Box 454878 **1**

SAIL AWAY WITH ME Good looking smart male, 39, 5ft9, dark hair and blue eyes, OHAC, no dependents, seeking similar girl to enjoy a trip on a boat...Sittingbourne. Box 46033 **1**

GOY GOY GOY LUCKY Stocky, 5ft7, 39, male, green-blue eyes, short hair, Virgo, GSOH, love swimming, walks on beaches, days out, seeking similar female, for loving times. Box 455764 **1**

A MAN OF FEW WORDS, BUT MUCH LOVE Hi, 40yr old fun-loving male, looking to meet slim fun-loving female, looks unimportant, for hopeful LTR. Many hobbies and interests! Box 450819 **1**

BEING WITH YOU I'm an honest, easygoing, young-looking, fit male, 40s, 5ft9, love live music, eating out, theatre, cinema and pubs, seeking a like-minded female. Box 893760 **1**

PUT THAT SPARK BACK INTO MY LIFE Virgo male, 40, 5ft7, stocky build, kind, loving, fine guy, enjoys the cinema, meals out, walks on beaches, WLTm like-minded person to be my girl. Box 446212 **1**

HIYA I'm a cute and laid-back guy, 41, 5ft8, short hair, athletic, very tactile, loving and spontaneous, likes shopping, travelling, eating in/out, hate football! Brighton. Box 450614 **1**

EVERYBODY'S FEELING HOT, HOT, HOT Exotic mixed race male, 42, 5'10", likes calypso, limbo dancing, seeks irresistible female from Swale, Medway for romantic sunsets. Box 868677 **1**

THE REAL THING Happy-go-lucky, fun-loving male, 42, 5ft9, brown eyes, medium build, likes nights out, travel, keeping active, seeking similar female for companionship. Box 441762 **1**

BROWSE and listen line: 0906 753 3093
(Calls cost 75p/min; contact your service provider for details)

HELP required with service? 0871 220 9205
(Live assistance, 2pm-5.30pm, Mon to Fri. Email: louise@gwave.co.uk Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)

MAKE A DATE Fun male 58" brown eyes, whitish hair, looking for an easy-going lady, likes going out, cinema or a meal, and bit of fun. Tunbridge Wells. Box 460283 **1**

LET ME COOK FOR YOU Sincere loving gent, 55, likes fishing and playing pool, football, staying active! Seeks caring, down-to-earth lady for love. Ramsgate. Box 460369 **1**

A VERY GOOD SOH... Hi I'm Male, 56, live by the sea, very youthful, 6ft, slim, tall, blue eyes, very attractive apparently...! Enjoys the outdoors, seeks similar lady, Westgate-on-Sea. Box 460324 **1**

WHO KNOWS? Loyal honest guy, 56, 5ft10, slim build, short fair hair, enjoys life and motorcycling, seeking humorous lady with genuine nature for love. Box 448072 **1**

SHALL WE BARGAIN HUNT? Young-looking 57yr old, great SOH, hazel eyes, blonde hair, medium build, likes car-boot sales, WLTm friend first for drinks and maybe see how it goes. Box 448017 **1**

OVER TO YOU Down to earth, blue-eyed male, 58, 5ft9, likes fresh water fishing, the country side and home life. WLTm lady for a caring, loving relationship. Maidstone. Box 460448 **1**

BIT OF A ROMANTIC Single friendly helpful chap, 58, great SOH, young-minded-looking, blonde hair, hazel eyes, loves car boot sales, walks along coasts, seeking soulmate to love. Hastings. Box 451492 **1**

JUST THE QUIET LIFE Ordinary male 61, likes country pubs, travelling, quiet nights in, seeks outgoing, quiet lady for friendship and more. Box 459489 **1**

I NEVER JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER Hi, 62yr old ex-fireman, 6ft2, stocky, likes cinema, DVDs, DVDs, pool, pub meals and swimming, looking for warm-hearted, easygoing lady with GSOH. Box 452289 **1**

OUT AND ABOUT Active 75yr old gent, a widower, I'm a non-smoker, with a GSOH, 6ft2, medium build, and enjoy cinema, music, walking. Box 451639 **1**

HITTING THE JACKPOT! 43yr old, 5ft9, blonde hair, blue eyes, eating out, playing bingo, socialising, looking for a man, 20-45, for companionship, maybe something more. Sittingbourne. Box 457494 **1**

TRUE COMPANIONSHIP Hi there, Irish male, 47, blue eyes, medium build, likes cinema/theatre, walks on beach, reading and nights out, with a GSOH, 6ft2, medium build, and enjoy cinema, music, walking. Box 460360 **1**

GIVE IT A SHOT Slim and fit man, 50, 5ft11, 10st, into photography and wood land walks, WLTm a man, any age, for good times and more. Box 451452 **1**

A LOVELY TIME Keep-fit male, 55, white hair, slim, loves the arts, cooking, entertaining, theatre/opera/ballet, walks on beaches, seeking man to hug and spoil. Box 447141 **1**

NEW TO THE AREA Country-loving male, 58, 5ft10, brown hair, blue-grey eyes, slim, works in London, seeks local male to spend time with and share hobbies. St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 460284 **1**

TEXT REPLY: For your protection, you will not be allowed to swap contact details until you have exchanged five messages each. **GUIDELINES:** Private individuals seeking long-term, monogamous relationships may advertise in yourkenticating. We suggest that ads contain a self-description, age range, and lifestyle description. We reserve the right to refuse or edit any ad for any reason. Ads may not be submitted by persons younger than 18 years of age for publication in yourkenticating. Also, no ads will be published seeking persons younger than 18 years of age. **DISCLAIMER:** KOS Media assumes no liability for the content of or reply to any personal advertisement. The advertiser assumes complete liability for the content of all replies to any advertisement or recorded message and for any claims made against KOS Media as a result thereof. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold KOS Media harmless from all costs, expenses (including reasonable solicitor's fees), liabilities and damages resulting from or caused by the publication or recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement. If you are not a BT telephone customer, please contact your service provider for details of their charges. Service provided by gwave Ltd. **DATA PROTECTION:** The People2People™ service is provided by gwave Ltd, 10 Tileyard Studios, Tileyard Road, London N7 9AH. gwave Ltd will collect the details you provide when placing your ad, including your name and address and may use your information to send you details of other related services and events operated by the company. Your name and address, but no other data, may also be passed on to KOS Media who may use it for their own marketing purposes. Your ad may appear in other newspapers and on the People2People™ internet site. If you are not a BT telephone customer, please contact your service provider for details of their charges. "yourkenticating" is a trademark of gwave Ltd.

MOTORS NEWS



Dramatic new look for sixth generation Astra

VAUXHALL'S most dramatic Astra yet arrives in showrooms for December.

Styling echoing that of the Insignia launched earlier in 2009, is just part of the appeal. The sixth generation Astra also has a quality interior and even more class than its capable predecessor.

There is a revamped engine line-up including two feisty low capacity turbocharged petrol engines – more evidence of a fight back against diesel. A five-door Astra arrives first with a three-door and estate to follow.

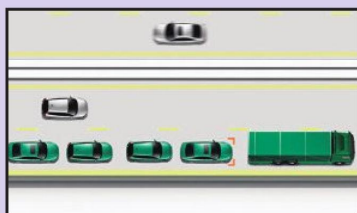


Landie' proves to be a classic readers' pin-up

BRITISH classic, the Land Rover Defender, topped a readers' poll by What Car?

The magazine's editor Steve Fowler said: "The Land Rover Defender has always had a devoted following. It's far from the most sophisticated car on the road, but its no-nonsense approach and longevity are what our readers like most about it."

Other winners in the 2009 Reader Awards included: Fiat 500 (supermini), Jaguar XJ (executive/luxury), Audi A5 (coupé) and Mazda MX-5 (open-top).



Remote control driving is not such a bad idea

CARS that drive themselves can become reality within ten years, says a European project called SARTRE (Safe Road Trains for the Environment).

This technology alliance, led by UK automotive developer Ricardo and including Volvo Cars, believes road trains – particularly on motorways – can speed traffic flow and journey times, boost driver comfort and reduce accidents, fuel consumption and CO2 emissions with much of the technology already available.



RETRO CLASSIC: The stunning new-look Jaguar XF echoes the brand's old style 'grace and pace' and comes complete with the company's most powerful diesel engine so far

End of Groundhog Day nightmare for Jaguar

ROAD TEST JAGUAR XF

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

The latter tightens up throttle and steering response and is the perfect partner to manual selection via steering wheel paddles, allowing you to exploit the rear driven chassis' sure-footedness beneath a typically well-sorted ride quality.

But it is tempting to just idle around knowing the Jag can dash to 60mph in under six seconds yet, driven normally, average around 40mpg with CO2 emissions of 179g/km or road tax Band I (£175/yr) – impressive for a rapid and relatively big car.

A junior version of the same engine developing 237bhp rather than 271bhp is even more frugal yet still outperforms the 3.0-litre V6 petrol XF, which is only marginally cheaper – who is going to buy that now?

If that heresy rattles G 'n' Ts down at the Jaguar gentlemen's club, then the XF interior should send the ice cubes into orbit.

It is emphatically not old style-style 'clubby' Jaguar. The use of wood is understated and the leather wears minimal stitching while the detail is techno. The control set all works beautifully and there is even a big boot and folding rear seat backs for longer loads – a far cry from the pinched back ends of those Groundhog Days.



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08 08 ASTRA 1-8 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DOOR STAR BLACK 6000 MILES.....	£8495
09 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR SILVER 11000 MILES.....	£7995
08 58 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 12000 MILES.....	£8995
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06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C SILVER LIGHTNING 8000 MILES.....	£6495

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BMW

5 SERIES, 520d SE AUTO E60, n56jy, only 27323 miles, manufacturers service history, upgraded alloys, cd player, aerospot spoilers, dynamic stability control, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti-dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, cruise control, drivers central armrest, electric seats, multi function steering wheel, on board computer, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, third point seat belt, beat this price, fantastic price, absolutely fantastic price, find more like this, just look at these low miles, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 214 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/ ** we average over 350 bmw's in group stock ** our opening hours are from 8:30am until 6pm mon sat ** sun 10am until 6pm** during office hours please call our sales office on 01732 220555 ** out of hours please call on 07956 158119 between 6pm until 10pm ** Big Motoring World ** big enough to cope, small enough to care", titanium silver, £13987, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

X3, 3.0i SE, yh56dp, 4x4, only 68661 miles, manufacturers service history, running boards, electric folding wing mirrors, heated seats, bluetooth, upgraded alloys, rain sensitive windscreen, headlamps washer package, cd player, aerospot spoilers, alarm, anti skid control + traction, anti-dazzle rear screen, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, climate control, cruise control, drivers central armrest, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front fog-lights, full child safety window lock, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, roof rails, third point seat belt, tonneau cover, beat this price, fantastic price, absolutely fantastic price, find more like this, just look at these low miles, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 314 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/m26/m2, ** comes complete with a comprehensive parts + labour warranty ** we average over 350 bmw's in group stock ** our opening hours are from 8:30am until 6pm mon sat ** sun 10am until 6pm** during office hours please call our sales office on 01732 220555 ** out of hours please call on 07956 158119 between 6pm until 10pm ** Big Motoring World ** big enough to cope, small enough to care", silver grey, £14997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

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BERLINGO, 1.6HDI 600Kw First Diesel, 574749256, pas, drivers airbag, service indicator, immobiliser, solid paint, front head restraints, white, 51 miles, £6995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C2, 1.1i COOL 3dr Hatch Sp Eds, g57u2t, pas, abs, air conditioning, remote central locking, front electric windows, radio/cd, trip computer, passenger airbag, electric door mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, steel wheels, iso fix child seat anchor points, front head restraints, service indicator, body coloured bumpers, cloth seat trim, rear headrests, audio remote control, folding rear seats, rear wiper, full size spare wheel, immobiliser, blue, 50000 miles, £6995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

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XSARA, PICASSO SX 16v 5dr, x422bpx, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, aluminium silver, 70000 miles, £2499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

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XSARA, PICASSO SX 16v, bo51 kgu, air conditioning, power steering, abs, front fog lamps, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, remote central locking, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, electric front windows, electric mirrors, cd player, radio, twin air bags, green, 74200 miles, £2395, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

DAEWOO

NEXIA, GLXi, 1997 t, tyres vgc battery, moss grey, 31800 miles, £1000, Kenneth Martin, Rochester, Kent, 01634719334 (PRIVATE)

NEXIA, GLXi, 1997 t, electric sun roof, security alarm, battery six mths vgc tyres all 4, spare as new/taxed, mot, till aug, 2010, full service history, a/c, moss grey, 31800 miles, £1000, Kenneth Martin, 01634719334 (PRIVATE)

LEGANZA, cdx auto, 1998, silver, 80000 miles, £595, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

DAIHATSU

SIRION, 1.3 SE 5 Door, 10/2006, abs with ebd, remote central locking, radio/cd player, air conditioning, alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, electric windows, metallic coral pink, 6,000 miles, £7750, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

FIAT

DOBLO, Active Hc, m06zgd, abs, air bag, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, power steering, electric front windows, trip computer, adjustable steering column, rear headrests, automatic electric windows, cloth upholstery, power steering, rear wiper, heated rear window, space saver spare wheel, service interval indicator, air recirculation system, side rubbing strips, height adjustable driver's seat, rear parcel shelf, height adjustable front headrests, driver's seat armrest, body coloured door mirrors, sliding side doors, seatbelt pretensioners with load limiters, 2nd row 60/40 split/fold, 5 x 3 point seatbelts, passenger side odometrs compartment with lid on fascia, follow me home headlights, storage compartments under survivors, second row windows with sliding rear panel, blue, 13000 miles, £6495, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)



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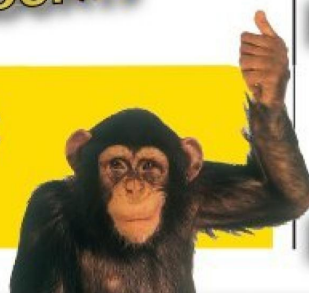


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Senior & General Appointments 46-48

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WINNING GOAL: Cara Brogan (pictured) celebrates scoring the goal that clinched victory for Maidstone

HOCKEY

Ladies hold on for close win

MAIDSTONE ladies hauled themselves back into East Women's Premier League contention with a 3-2 win against Chelmsford.

After a disappointing goalless draw against Bromley and Beckenham last time out, Rachel Thompson's side were determined to get a result.

Lizzie Daniels opened the scoring with a 40-yard run and shot, which flew through the legs of the Chelmsford goalkeeper and into the net. A second goal followed shortly after with Hannah Durston deflected a Cara Brogan shot into the net.

Chelmsford fought back and two quick-fire goals levelled the scores at the break.

Maidstone continued to attack in the second-half and they were rewarded with a third goal scored by Brogan.

There the score remained, with the 3-2 win lifting Maidstone to fourth in the East Women's Premier League. They will now take confidence from this victory into their next game, a home fixture against Colchester.

Maidstone men's 1st XI remain bottom of South Hockey League Premier Division One after a 2-2 draw against Spencer.

Greg Laurenson scored both goals for Maidstone to earn a draw, but Darren Marchant's side are yet to pick up their first win of the season. Maidstone are at home to Banbury on Saturday.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT
glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



DRAMATIC FINISH: Maidstone (red/white) snatched an injury time try to win the derby with Aylesford Bulls, the first victory either side has managed so far this season

Maidstone clinch their first win of season at the death

RUGBY

■ BY YOURMAIDSTONE REPORTER

Aylesford Bulls 3 Maidstone 7

AN INJURY time try saw Maidstone dramatically come from behind to snatch victory and shatter Aylesford Bulls in Saturday's London 1 South basement derby.

Neil Graves scored the decisive try in the 84th minute to win a poor game in which the players were hindered by the difficult weather conditions at the Jack Williams Ground.

As well as the usual local pride issues at stake when the two sides meet, the game had taken on a more important edge. Both teams had endured thoroughly miserable starts to the season, losing all seven of their league

games to leave them marooned at the bottom of the table.

The Bulls' preparations were disrupted with the loss of skipper Mark Dorman, who left the club due to work commitments. Prop Simon Forster announced his retirement due to a recurring knee problem, while Paul Hyland and Luke Cherrington were ruled out with injuries.

The game itself lacked all the usual trappings of a derby and took an age to get going with both sides palpably short on confidence. Maidstone played with the wind in the first-half and used it well to seize the territorial advantage, spending most of the opening 40 minutes camped in the Bulls' half.

Maidstone skipper Steve Matthews bizarrely turned down three kicks at goal in the first-half, preferring to kick to touch in search of a try. It failed to come and the teams trudged off scoreless at the break.

Unfortunately for the Bulls, the wind and rain died down during the break, nullifying much of the advantage Maidstone had enjoyed.

In a virtual carbon copy of the first-half, the Bulls spent most of the second period in enemy territory without ever quite threatening to open the scoring.

Errors on both sides saw a succession of promising moves break down until the deadlock was finally broken ten minutes from time. Assistant coach Jed Friday, playing his first game for three years, slotted a penalty from 35-metres to edge the home side in front.

The Bulls were convinced they had won the game when they scored an 83rd-minute try, only for the referee to disallow it, signalling the ball was held up.

Rerieved, Maidstone astonishingly won the game with the next phase. The Bulls lost their first scrum of the afternoon, setting Maidstone on an attack which finished with Graves diving over. Mike Molloy kicked the conversion to rub salt into the wounds and leave the Bulls wondering what they have to do to end their wretched run.

This weekend Maidstone host Beckenham, while Aylesford visit Thanet Wanderers.

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Stones win on return to league after cup efforts

FOOTBALL

BY YOURMAIDSTONE REPORTER

Ashford Town (Middx) 0



Maidstone United 2



Pinnock 29, Wright 66

GOALS from James Pinnock and Matthew Wright helped Maidstone United earn their first win since September, taking them up to seventh in the Ryman Premier in the process.

With FA Cup and Trophy games dominating October, the Stones returned to league action hoping to arrest their slide towards the bottom half of the table.

Joint-managers Lloyd Hume and Alan Walker were forced to make changes to their side, as Roland Edge was ruled out and Jay Saunders was suspended.

The game produced little goalmouth action in the first 20 minutes and the first real chance had by either side resulted in the opening goal for Maidstone. Jermaine Darlington and Wright combined on the edge of the area, which allowed the Crystal Palace man to shoot. His shot was parried by Ashford goalkeeper Craig Ross and Pinnock was on hand to lash the ball into the net.



Picture: STEVE TERRELL

Maidstone starting XI



Subs used: O'Donovan (Mooney 64), Dann (Pinnock 86), Morrison (Hernandez-Bradshaw 89)

Ashford responded and created two chances to level the score, but Stones goalkeeper Jamie Turner was alert. First Brian Haule was denied at the near post and Turner then saved Billy Jeffrey's header.

The home side started the second-half well and Maidstone were immediately forced to

defend. Paul Johnson's free-kick forced Turner to tip the ball over the bar. Shortly after the hosts felt they should have been awarded a penalty for handball by Darlington, but the referee waved away the appeals.

The game was being played at a frantic pace and on the hour mark Maidstone came close to scoring a second goal. Nick Barnes let fly with a free-kick which cannoned off the crossbar.

The Stones faithful didn't have to wait long for a second goal, as Wright found space in the area to slot the ball into the net on 66 minutes.

Ashford pushed forward at every opportunity but Maidstone's defence held firm as they recorded their first league win since September 22.

FOOTBALL



Picture: STEVE TERRELL

RESHUFFLED: Shannon O'Donovan (right) was one player recalled to the patched-up side on Saturday.

Hume's praise for makeshift squad after battling win

LLOYD Hume praised his patched-up Maidstone United side following a hard-fought 2-0 win at Ashford Town (Middlesex) on Saturday.

The Stones were without five of their first-team players through injury and suspension, but a reshuffled line-up battled to secure the club's first league win since September.

Joint-manager Hume admitted he is pleased by how his side have done so far this season, and believes the Stones deserve credit for occupying seventh position after 12 games.

He told Yourmaidstone: "I was delighted with the win to be honest and we thoroughly deserved to keep a clean sheet. Considering we had five first-team players out, it was a great performance from the lads."

"With 12 games gone I think we are in a great position in the league. We have to remember we were fighting against relegation two seasons ago. It is so tight at the moment and we are only four points from second place."

The Stones return to FA Trophy action this Saturday with a trip to fellow Ryman Premier League side Bognor Regis Town.

Despite the Sussex side being rock bottom of the division, Hume believes Maidstone will be in for another tough encounter after a 0-0 draw between the sides earlier in the season.

He said: "I'm expecting another tough game. It's the FA Trophy so both clubs are going to want to win and progress. In the game earlier this season it was a real battle and I still believe they won't be at the bottom come the end of the season."

Jay Saunders could return to the starting line-up after serving his suspension, but Roland Edge, Ashley Ulph and Tom Parkinson are expected to be ruled out through injury.

The club have also extended the loan of striker Matthew Wright from Championship side Crystal Palace.

LEAGUE TABLE

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Dartford	12	11	1	0	+33	34
2 Boreham Wood	13	7	2	4	+7	23
3 Hastings United	13	7	2	4	+4	23
4 Wealdstone	11	5	5	1	+6	20
5 Tooting & Mitcham U	11	6	2	3	+5	20
6 Canvey Island	11	6	2	3	+4	20
7 Maidstone United	12	5	4	3	+4	19
8 Kingstonian	13	6	1	6	-3	19
9 Sutton United	11	6	0	5	+5	18
10 Carshalton Athletic	12	5	3	4	-2	18
11 Tonbridge Angels	12	4	3	5	-1	15
12 AFC Hornchurch	13	4	3	6	-3	15
13 Aveley	11	4	2	5	-1	14
14 Horsham	11	4	2	5	-1	14
15 Ashford Town (Mx)	11	4	2	5	-3	14
16 Margate	12	4	2	6	-10	14
17 Hendon	10	4	1	5	-2	13
18 Harrow Borough	11	3	3	5	-3	12
19 Cray Wanderers	13	3	3	7	-7	12
20 Waltham Abbey	13	2	4	7	-12	10
21 Billericay Town	12	1	6	5	-7	9
22 Bognor Regis Town	12	1	3	8	-13	6

FIXTURES

FA TROPHY SECOND QUALIFYING ROUND

Bognor Regis Town v Maidstone United

Coleman crosses line first to clinch second league win

ATHLETICS

MIKE Coleman's domination of the Kent Cross Country League continued as he won the senior men's second round at Tonbridge on Saturday.

The Medway & Maidstone (M&M) runner finished the ten kilometre course at Somerhill School 12 seconds ahead of Tonbridge's Ben Wiffen. It was Coleman's second league win out of two this season, following a comfortable victory in the opening round earlier this month.

Tom Collins and Ben Tyler also finished in the top ten to keep M&M top of the overall senior men's team title after two events.

The club's senior women improved on their showing in the first round to finish the meeting with the sixth best score. Amy Skinner was first home in 11th, followed by Bernadette Harrop (28th) and Fallon Lafferty (33rd).

M&M's boys teams had a strong showing. The under-13s had five runners in the top 20, with performances from Ben Murphy (sixth), Stephen Jones (tenth) and Tom Whiley (14th) enough to give them second place behind a dominant Tonbridge.

The under-15 boys also finished second overall behind the host club. James West was M&M's top runner, finishing sixth, while George Vaughan and Christian El Shamma came in within three seconds of each other in 15th and 16th place.

Adam Gilbert finished clear in second in the under-17s race, spearheading the team's runners-up spot overall. Jamie Arnold (14th)



Picture: IAN KUPKO

DOUBLE: Mike Coleman won again on Saturday

and Kieran Clark (18th) completed the scoring positions.

Jacinta Barham was the best performer in the girls' teams, finishing 19th in the under-13 race.

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To make the whole process of selling and buying easier, Bellway are able to offer potential buyers a choice of **TWO DEALS:**

DEAL 1

PART EXCHANGE

Bellway's Part Exchange scheme is an efficient and straightforward method to move house.

By offering you a realistic market price for your current home, Bellway takes the hassle of selling away from you

This direct acquisition offers you a number of benefits, including:

- a guaranteed price for your old home
- no estate agents/HIPs fees to pay
- the option to stay in your current home until your new home is ready
- a stress free move
- no chain

DEAL 2

EXPRESS MOVER

Express Mover is the perfect solution if you want to buy a Bellway home but haven't sold your own house.

- A recommended local agent will be used to market your present home
- You agree the selling price on your present home
- The estate agent works harder making your present home a higher priority to sell
- Details of your present home will be displayed in our sales office
- Prospective buyers are fully checked out before being given an appointment to view your present home
- Bellway will do all the chasing with the estate agent to secure a sale for you
- You get market price for your present home
- You can trade 'up', 'down' or 'sideways'
- Properties outside our region can be registered on the scheme
- Most importantly - it's free of charge! Bellway pays your estate agency fees and reimburses HIP fee





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